



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Marion County Radio Project Monthly Update

November 25, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem

5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis, and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Alvin Klausen, Chris Eppley, Ben Eugenio, Heather Inyama, Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, and Matt Laywer.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Information Technology: Gary Chrisofferson.

Public Works: Brian Nicholas.

Sheriff's Office: Nick Hunter.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Marion County Radio Project Update

- Sites Status/Project Schedule Update:
 - Recent contract bids were split into two site groups:
 - First group:
 - Seven sites require either a new tower, shelter, or both.
 - Together due to similar civil work and use of heavy equipment.
 - Second group:
 - Electrical work and sites with less foundational change needed.
 - Specific sites discussed:
 - Crooked Finger.
 - Lower Prospects.
 - McCully Mountain.
 - House Mountain.
 - Aumsville Public Works
 - METCOM 9-1-1.
 - Whipper
 - Crosby Road.
 - East View Lane.
 - Bid results for general contractor prices have been incorporated:
 - Green highlights indicate completed or finalized bids.
 - Actual purchase prices included for transparency.
 - House Mountain and Whipper sites are pending design adjustments:
 - Regarding foundations.
 - Change orders expected due to unanticipated issues:
 - Unsuitable manufacturer design or site geology.

- Some electrical work separated and to be contracted in second package:
 - Challenging power requirements at the METCOM site.
- Generator specifications:
 - 35 kVA size.
 - Extra capacity for expansion and potential revenue from more users.
- Delivery schedules for equipment established with manufacturers:
 - Some dates, especially for generator delivery, are not yet firm.
- Key milestones:
 - Next bid package to be advertised soon.
 - Bid opening is expected by mid-January.
 - Weather contingencies and modular construction are risk mitigations.
- Buffer time for acceptance, weather delays, and vendor performance.
- Tait Status:
 - Change in Tait's project manager:
 - Some delays while new manager comes up to speed.
 - Preliminary design for dispatch console system is behind schedule.
 - Design and configuration with METCOM expected for January-February.
 - Delays tracked:
 - Weekly meetings involving Tait's president to accelerate progress.
 - Concern of Tait meeting Detailed Design Review (DDR) deadlines persist:
 - Repeated rescheduling noted but progress is evident.
 - Bench testing for long lead equipment (controllers/radios) is scheduled.
 - System installation currently targeted for July:
 - Contingency buffers for acceptance and agency migration.
 - Migration of agencies to new system is phased:
 - Sheriff's department expected to migrate first.
 - Followed by others.
 - Possibly pushing onboarding for external agencies into 2027.
- Project Cost Update:
 - Major component costs for site civil, towers, shelters, generators available.
 - Civil improvement estimates have increased from \$4.25M to \$4.8M.
 - Two major funding gaps identified:
 - Additional \$2M for subscriber units for new/external agencies.
 - Consulting services for delivery and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensing steps for about \$70k-\$90k.
 - Delays in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program impacted plans:
 - Grant critical for acquisition of radios for external agencies.
 - Other grants under pursuit:
 - Safe Streets for All.
 - Organized Retail Theft (ORT).
 - Spire:
 - Contribute smaller amounts ranging from \$50k to \$300k.
 - Various funding streams tracked in dynamic model:
 - Projections on expenditures and fund timing extending into late 2026.
 - Special attention given to:
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
 - Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).
 - U.S. Department of Energy grants.

- Financial management includes prioritizing non-General Fund dollars for initial expenditures:
 - Holding General Fund support until the end of the funding chain.
- Budgeting for FY2026/27 Operations:
 - New Public Safety Radio Fund being established:
 - Expected to become operational in next budget cycle.
 - Until self-sufficient Public Works budget will carry most operating costs.
 - Projected first-year system revenue is around \$825,000 from subscribing agencies:
 - Forecasted operating costs are higher at about \$1.1 million.
 - Efforts ongoing to control expenses.
 - Revenue projections are conservative:
 - Do not yet include some interested agencies:
 - Dog services.
 - Juvenile Department.
 - Justice Court.
 - Potentially the state police.
 - APW site and possible carrier (AT&T) co-location can give further revenue.
 - Ongoing expansion and onboarding of additional users may improve financial sustainability.

Other

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) restructured to focus on project delivery not long-term system vision:
 - Includes police, fire, public works, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Contracts in progress for next bid group:
 - As well as specialized power service installation.
- Lease agreements pursued for sites co-owned or used by other entities:
 - METCOM and City of Woodburn.
- Structure and financial flows of leases are under negotiation:
 - Aiming for no net-new lease charges.
 - Redirected revenue used for system operations.
- METCOM assumes ownership and operational responsibility for system at their facility once installed.
- Community and stakeholder engagement is ongoing:
 - Leadership updates agencies and fields inquiries about new participation.

Next Steps

- Execute site lease agreements for METCOM and City of Woodburn locations.
- Draft and implement project delivery agreement for dispatch console system at METCOM.
- Prepare and advertise second civil contract bid for remaining sites in January:
 - Initiate independent power services contracting.
- Monitor and push for completion of Tait's detailed designs:
 - Enforce project schedule commitments and track all risk factors.
- Continue pursuing grants to address budget shortfalls for subscriber radios.
- Establish and populate Public Safety Radio Fund:
 - Monitor revenue generation potential as user agencies join.
- Communicate with TAC and update oversight bodies monthly on project progress.
- Follow up on planning and social events to maintain cohesion and engagement.

Adjourned – time: 2:20 p.m.
Minutes by: Mary Vityukova
Reviewed by: Gary L. White