

Salt Lake County Emergency Management Radio System Upgrade Proposal

Overview:

Salt Lake County Emergency Management (EM) is seeking approval for a \$64,000 investment to upgrade and update our existing handheld radios (to be funded through the EM Fund Balance; no new General Fund request). This is in response to the ongoing implementation of the P25 radio system upgrade by the State of Utah, a statewide initiative designed to improve interoperability and communications across emergency services.

Why This Upgrade is Necessary:

- **Statewide Transition to P25:** Over the past several years, the State of Utah has been transitioning to a P25-compliant radio system. This system enhances communication capabilities for public safety agencies, promoting clearer, more reliable radio transmissions and better interoperability between agencies across the state.
- **Compatibility with Current and Future Phases:** While the radios currently in use by EM are compatible with the first phase of the P25 upgrade, it is anticipated that they may face compatibility issues as the system progresses into its second phase. By upgrading now, we can avoid potential disruptions in communication that could arise from this phased transition.
- **Maintaining State and Regional Interoperability:** Emergency management agencies throughout the state and Salt Lake Valley are upgrading their radios to align with the P25 system. This upgrade will ensure that Salt Lake County EM remains in sync with the regional and state-wide communications infrastructure, facilitating seamless coordination during emergency response situations.

Benefits of Upgrading:

1. **Future-Proofing Communications:** By investing in the upgrade now, we ensure our radios are fully compatible with future P25 phases, keeping us ahead of potential disruptions.
2. **Enhanced Interoperability:** Our upgraded radios will be fully integrated into the statewide communication network, ensuring better coordination during multi-agency operations.
3. **Improved Communication Reliability:** P25 radios offer superior performance, including clearer audio and enhanced coverage, which are critical during emergency situations.
4. **Minimized Risk:** Upgrading now mitigates the risk of our existing radios becoming obsolete, allowing us to maintain operational readiness.

Conclusion:

The \$64,000 investment in upgraded radios will ensure that Salt Lake County Emergency Management remains fully operational and compatible with the ongoing statewide P25 transition. By making this proactive investment, we will enhance our ability to respond effectively to emergencies while maintaining seamless communication with neighboring jurisdictions and state agencies.