

**Ark-Tex Council of Governments
Homeland Security Advisory Committee Meeting
Via Zoom**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84736008870?pwd=R3JZVHpKSzJUS3YxTENXdUJpVVZldz09>

Meeting ID: 847 3600 8870

Passcode: 200697

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

May 26, 2022 – 2:00 pm

AGENDA

- ❖ Call to Order
- ❖ Approve the minutes from the meeting on February 17, 2022
- ❖ Non-voting Items
 - Brief Homeland Security Update
 -
- ❖ Voting Items
 - Chair and Vice Chair elections
 - Current Chair: Becky Wilbanks
 - Current Vice Chair: Andy Endsley
 - Past officers:
 - Larry McRae
 - Ann Rushing
 - Jason Ricketson
 - Becky Wilbanks
 - Review and approve Regional RICP
 - Dates and Logistics of Annual Communication Exercise
- ❖ Questions/Discussion
- ❖ Announcements
 - Next Scheduled Meeting: **August 18, 2022 at 10am at Titus Regional Medical Center Wellness Plaza**
 - COG repeater test will be Tuesday June 7th at 9am
 - TDEM conference May 31st-June 3rd
- ❖ Adjourn

**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
February 17, 2022**

MINUTES

The meeting of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Homeland Security Advisory Committee was called to order by **Whitney Fezell** at 10:04 a.m., February 17, 2022, at Via zoom online.

Whitney Fezell provided the minutes from December 16, 2021 meeting, **Eric Schlotter** made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by **Lance Hall** and approved by majority.

Whitney Fezell provided the committee with a homeland security update. The committee was informed that projects has to be scored, prioritized and approved by the governing board prior to the mid-March upload deadline. The committee was informed that we will consider using a COG imposed deadline to meet these criteria.

The first voting item on the agenda was to prioritize FY2022 State Homeland Security Program funding projects via ballot. Each applicant that was present provided a detailed description of their project. **Whitney Fezell** explained the ballot and the scoring process. **Whitney Fezell** informed members that ballots must be complete and signed to be accepted. **Eric Schlotter** made the motion to accept the ballots as the FY2022 prioritization listing, Motion seconded by **Randy Tuttle** and approved by the majority.

Becky Wilbanks opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Becky Wilbanks opened the floor for Announcements

Whitney Fezell announced the next repeater test on March 1st at 9am

Whitney Fezell announced Alerrt Training March 22-23, 2022 @ Mt. Pleasant Civic Center

Whitney Fezell announced that SERI applications are due to COG by February 28, 2022

Motion to adjourn was made by **Randy Tuttle** and seconded by **Danny Richard** and approved by majority.

ATTENDING:

Whitney Fezell – ATCOG Homeland Security Coordinator

Becky Wilbanks- Cass County Judge

Danny Richard- City of Daingerfield

Jason Ricketson- EMC- City of Sulphur Springs Police Department

Tanner Crump- Sheriff's Captain- Hopkins County

Lance Hall- EMC- Bowie County

Danny Richard-VFD-City of Daingerfield
Tanner Crump-Hopkins County SO
Tanner Crutcher- EMC- Delta County
Quincy Blount- Lamar County EMC
Andy Endsley- Hopkins County EMC
Eric Schlotter- City of Texarkana EMC

Signature

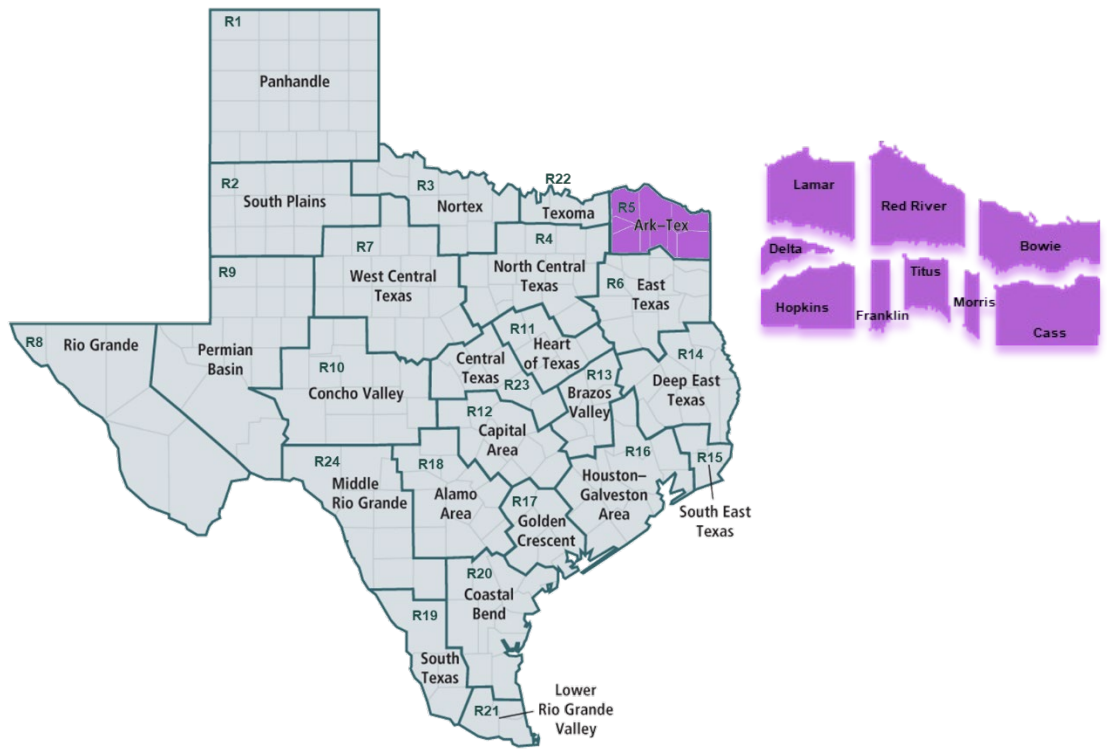
Title

Date

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)

Region 5

Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP)



20 February 2021/**DRAFT Template**
Created from
V-3.0 – December 2020

Distribution is limited to those parties authorized by the ATCOG. The point of contact (POC) for this document is the ATCOG. Current contact information for the POC can be found in Section 1 of this document.



Regional Interoperable Communications Plan

Approval & Authorization Page

On March 31, 2022 the Board of Directors of Region 5, Ark-Tex Texas Council of Governments, adopted the Regional Interoperability Communications Plan (RICP).

This plan was updated October 2021, and the RICP was presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors on March 31, 2022. The RICP was recommended for ATCOG Membership on March 31, 2022.

The ATCOG region includes: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties, to include all jurisdictions and/or public safety agencies within these counties.

Signed:

Executive Director,

Date

Texas Association of Regional Councils

01 Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)

Counties Served: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

02 South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG)

Counties Served: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, Yoakum

03 Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX)

Counties Served: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young

04 North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

Counties Served: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise

05 Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ARK-TEK)

Counties Served: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus Counties in TX and Miller Co., AR

06 East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG)

Counties Served: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood

07 West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG)

Counties Served: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton

08 Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOC)

Counties Served: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio

09 Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission [PBRPC]

Counties Served: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, Winkler

10 Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOC)

Counties Served: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green

11 Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG)

Counties Served: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan

12 Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG)

Counties Served: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson

13 Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOC)

Counties Served: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Washington

14 Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG)

Counties Served: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler

15 South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)

Counties Served: Hardin, Jefferson, Orange

16 Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton

17 Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC)

Counties Served: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria

18 Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, Wilson

19 South Texas Development Council (STDC)

Counties Served: Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Zapata

20 Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG)

Counties Served: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio

21 Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

Counties Served: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy

22 Texoma Council of Governments (TEXOMA)

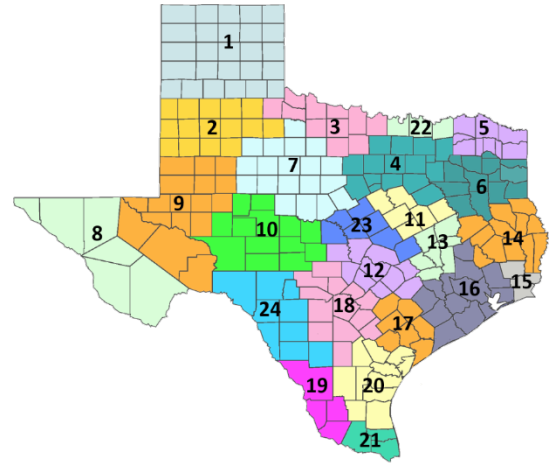
Counties Served: Cooke, Fannin, Grayson

23 Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)

Counties Served: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, San Saba

24 Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC)

Counties Served: Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Zavala



Executive Overview

This document establishes a Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP) for the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Region 5. The RICP is intended to document the distribution of funding build-out and migration of regional communication system(s) to a P25 Compliant Standards-Based Shared System and reference revisions to policies and procedures in addition to operational guidance.

“From terrorism to tornadoes, whatever happens, everyone is involved in truly a team effort,” Steve McCraw, Director.

Recognizing the need for an overarching emergency communications strategy to address communication deficiencies that exist at the regional level, this guide provides the governance and authority needed to decide on the grant funding disbursement for regional interoperable communications. This document includes, on a strategic level, equipment requirements, policies and procedures that explain the equipment’s operational use, training that must occur on the new equipment, the build-out plan of communications systems to achieve region-wide interoperability, and usage by all relative agencies on a daily basis.

This document establishes a RICP for the 10 counties of Region 5 which also includes Miller County, Arkansas.

The RICP is intended to document the Regional Interoperable Migration Plan (RIMP) and outline the priorities for public safety communications related objectives.

It specifies public safety, public service, and non-governmental emergency responders’ daily operations and emergency response activities available within the designated area, who controls each resource, and what rules of use or operational procedures exist for activation and deactivation of each resource.

The RICP is aligned with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and the Statewide Communications Interoperable Plan (SCIP) goals and objectives for achieving P25 interoperability.

The 2014 NECP sets forth five strategic goals based on the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum that provide continuity with the 2008 NECP. Collectively, the NECP goals aim to enhance emergency communications capabilities at all levels of government and across disciplines in coordination with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and communities across the nation:

NECP (National Emergency Communications Plan)	
Goal 1	<i>Governance and Leadership: Enhance decision-making, coordination, and planning for emergency communications through strong governance structures and leadership.</i>
Goal 2	<i>Planning and Procedures: Update plans and procedures to improve emergency responder communications and readiness in a dynamic operating environment.</i>
Goal 3	<i>Training and Exercises: Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communicate through training and exercise programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications.</i>
Goal 4	<i>Operational Coordination: Ensure operational effectiveness through the coordination of communications capabilities, resources, and personnel from across the whole community.</i>
Goal 5	<i>Research and Development: Coordinate research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to develop innovative emergency communications capabilities that support the needs of emergency responders.</i>

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1 Introduction

The Regional Interoperable Communications Plan (RICP) is a strategic plan that:

- Establishes a regional vision for the future state of local emergency communications.
- Sets regional goals and priorities for addressing deficiencies in the region's emergency communications structure.
- Provides recommendations and milestones for emergency response providers and relevant government officials to improve their communications capabilities.

The RICP includes the Regional Governance Structures (RGOV), the Regional Interoperable Migration Plan (RIMP), and Regional Standard Operating Procedures (RSOP).

ATCOG and the State Administrative Agency (SAA) partnered in the development of this Regional Interoperable Communications Plan.

Several referenced sources that aided in the production of this document, or which might help clarify parts of it, are contained in Appendix E. A Glossary of Terms is included as Appendix F.

The following is the multidisciplinary team for establishing and completing initiatives and milestones relative to the RICP scope or timeframe.

1.1 Regional Interoperable Communications Plan Points of Contact

Regional Plan Coordinator (Primary):

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24/7 Phone: 903-861-6001
E-Mail: jesse.graves@dps.texas.gov

1.2 Regional Participating Agencies

The list of counties and cities represented in the RICP, along with POC emergency phone numbers, can be found in Appendix A. Appendix A also includes information on other regions and/or counties that are participating in this regional communications system.

1.3 Focus Group Sessions

The ATCOG annual Focus Group Session will take place in the month of June. The group will identify and/or re-evaluate:

- Areas and agencies lacking operability/interoperability.
 - Identify and plan to overcome gaps in regional operable/interoperable communications, policies and training.
- Accomplishments and status of projects.
 - Progress along the Interoperability Continuum in an appropriate category that best fits the specific agency and/or local area. Re-evaluate regional requirements as technology evolves and circumstances dictate. Review communications related SOPs created by the included agencies, to preclude conflicts or non-compliance with current standards or initiatives.
- Initiatives and priorities for funding.
 - Prioritize and recommend projects for funding based on Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) priorities and initiatives,

This information will be submitted annually to the Office of the Texas Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to be integrated into the revised SCIP Initiatives, and revised SCIP Funding Plan.

1.4 RICP Ratification Process

After customizing the RICP template with regional policy and procedure information, formally identifying the regional governance structure, and providing a high-level design to reach a regional public safety Shared System for voice communications, the following ratification procedure will be employed:

1. The Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) Technology Advisors and the Communications Area Managers of the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS), Public Safety Communications Service will collaborate with the COGs in their regions on the final review and compliance of the RICP.
2. RICPs must be compliant with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Response Framework (NRF), Core Capabilities, and the Texas SCIP (TxSCIP).
3. The COGs will develop a review and comment period for participating agencies, jurisdictions, and counties.
4. The RICP documents approved at the COG will be submitted to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) at the Office of the SWIC, and to the State

- Coordinator for Communications (SCC) at the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.
5. The Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grants Division, and the Office of the SWIC have final authority over statewide communications interoperability.

2 Governance

The RICP addresses the following objectives set forth in the 2014 NECP.

NECP Objectives:

- To facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designated emergency communications leadership roles.
- To integrate strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts across all levels of government.
- To develop coordinated grant requirements that promote Federal participation and coordination in communications planning processes, governance bodies, joint training and exercises, and infrastructure sharing.
- Emergency responders employ common planning and operational protocols to effectively use their resources and personnel.
- Emergency responders have shared approaches to training and exercises, improved technical expertise, and enhanced response capabilities.

ATCOG has integrated preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities to communicate during significant events.

2.1 Statewide Governing Body

Texas interoperable communications plans and governance is directed and approved by the Texas Governor. Figure 1, the Texas Governance Organization Chart, identifies support positions from the Governor's Office down to the regional level.

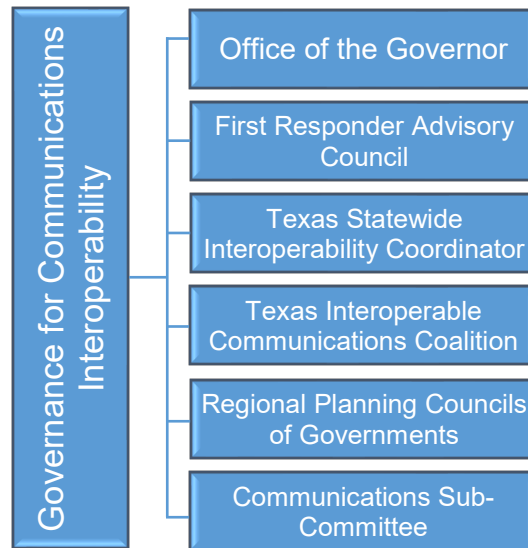


Figure 1: Texas Governance Organization Chart

2.2 Regional Governance Authority

In accordance with the:

- Texas Emergency Management Statutes [Code 421](#), and
- Texas Statewide Communications Interoperable Plan (SCIP),

Texas regions will develop governance structures which will provide oversight for the development and implementation of (1) the regional integrated public safety radio systems, and (2) the RIMPs.

Regions will adopt existing or create new governance agreements that provide supervision in the use of appropriated money, including money from relevant federal homeland security grants, for the purposes of designing, implementing, and maintaining a regional integrated public safety radio communications system that provides interoperability between local, state and federal agency first responders.

Regions will develop, implement, and train on the common regional SOP, consistent with guidelines in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Framework (NRF), and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

2.3 Regional Interoperable Communications Sub-Committee

The RICP was developed under the authority of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Board. On March of 2003, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Board appointed members to the ATCPG Homeland Security Committee, designated as an advisory committee to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Board. The ATCOG Homeland Security Committee is advised about communications by the ATCOG staff for the Interoperability Communications Committee.

Membership is open to all and may include representatives from the following public safety and public service disciplines:

- Critical Infrastructure Utilities
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Services
- Federal
- Fire/Rescue/EMS
- Law Enforcement
- Military
- Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Partners
- Public Health
- Public Works
- State
- Tribal Entities
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

2.4 Regional Governing Body Responsibilities

The ATCOG – Emergency Management Committee will:

- Ensure the RICP is maintained and updated at regular intervals, or as critical updated information is identified.
- Ensure the dissemination of updated plans to all participating agencies.
- Ensure training requirements are established in support of the RICP.
- Ensure the initiation of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Mutual Aid Agreements (MAAs) for interoperable communications.
- Ensure the promotion of regular interoperable equipment/solutions testing; assist agencies with test evaluations, and dissemination of the results.
- Ensure the promotion of interoperable communications capabilities through trained communications personnel.
- Schedule annual Focus Group Meetings.

2.5 Meeting Schedule

The ATCOG Interoperability Communications Committee meets at Pilgrim's Bank in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, at 12:00 pm quarterly.

2.6 RICP Maintenance and Update

The ATCOG Stakeholders will revisit the RICP, as needed, and:

- Discuss initiative progress and status. Identify potential new initiatives.
- Determine if existing initiatives have become a higher/lower priority.

Updates to this document can be recommended by any of the participating agencies or by the Office of the SWIC. Requests for modifications or additions to this document should be submitted to the RICP POC for distribution to the ATCOG and the ATCOG Interoperability Communications Committee.

Where revisions are necessary, the ATCOG Stakeholders will revise the specific section(s), record the change(s) on the "Record of Change" page, submit the updated section(s) to the Regional Plan Coordinator, and provide a courtesy copy to the Office of the SWIC. Revisions to the RICP will require review from the ATCOG Interoperability Communications Committee and endorsement from the ATCOG Executive Board.

Agencies participating in this plan will be formally notified via email within 30 days of any approved modifications or additions to this RICP. Revisions to the RICP adopted by reference and current subsequent versions can be requested from the Office of the SWIC when necessary.

3 Current State

The ATCOG regional systems are summarized below. Channel usage is summarized in Appendix C, and a description of the methodology for gathering some information on regional communications assets is contained in Appendix D.

3.1 Regional System

Texas has adopted the “Project 25 Standard” as the technology solution and long-term interoperability goal for voice public safety agency communications. The TxSCIP directs the foundation for statewide interoperable communications to be based on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “System-of-Systems Approach for Interoperable Communications”. The system-of-systems definition is: “A system-of-systems exists when a group of independently operating systems comprised of people, technology, and organizations are connected, enabling emergency responders to effectively support day-to-day operations, planned events, or major incidents.”¹

Utilizing the system-of-systems recommendations, and in compliance with the TxSCIP, each system in the region will develop high-level strategic plans to implement a regional interoperable communications system which will become part of the Texas system-of-systems.

With a system-of-systems approach, planners are able to consider how technology is evolving to maintain system connections and overcome interoperability challenges. This approach allows for greater consideration for backwards-compatibility, standard technical interfaces, and migrating to advanced technologies.

Core Capabilities

The National Planning Scenarios² and the establishment of the National Preparedness Guidelines³ steered the focus of homeland security towards a capabilities-based planning approach. Capabilities-based planning focuses on planning under uncertainty, as the next danger or disaster can never be forecast with complete accuracy. Therefore, capabilities-based planning takes an all-hazards approach to planning and preparation which builds capabilities that can be applied to a wide variety of incidents.

For the past several years, states and urban areas have used capabilities-based planning to perform baseline assessments of their homeland security efforts by comparing their current capabilities against the Core Capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal and the Emergency Support Function (ESF)⁴ annexes. This approach identified gaps in current capabilities and focused efforts on identifying and developing priority capabilities and tasks for the jurisdiction.

In September 2011, DHS released the first edition of the National Preparedness Goal⁵ in response to Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness (PPD-8). The National Preparedness Goal describes our nation’s security and resilience posture through Core Capabilities, which represent an evolution from the Target Capabilities List

¹ http://www.safecomprogram.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FD22B528-18B7-4CB1-AF49-F9626C608290/0/SOSApproachforInteroperableCommunications_02.pdf

² National Planning Scenarios: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/factsheets/2009/npd_natl_plan_scenario.pdf

³ National Preparedness Guidelines: http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/National_Preparedness_Guidelines.pdf

⁴ ESF Annexes: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-all.pdf>

⁵ National Preparedness Goal: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/prepared/npg.pdf>

(TCL). The Core Capabilities address five mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery).

3.2 Mobile Communications Command Program

The Mobile Communications Command Program (MCCP) has been established by the DPS and will be used to provide and/or restore emergency communications due to natural disasters (such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, etc.) and man-made disasters caused by terrorist or criminal activities. DPS is the designated first responder state agency and will continue to implement and manage the MCCP equipment. The MCCP may include:

- Cargo Trailers
- Cellular on Wheels (COWs)
- Command/Communications Trailers
- Computers for each Command Trailer
- Family Radio Service (FRS) Radios
- High Frequency (HF) Radio Equipment
- IP Gateway Devices
- P25 Compliant Portable Radios with Trunking
- Portable Gateway Devices
- Portable Generators
- Primary Towing Vehicles
- Satellite Telephones and Radios
- Suitcase Digital Repeaters
- Trunking Site on Wheels (SOWs)
- Video Downlink for Helicopters

When called upon to support planned events, respond to hostile events or natural disasters, the MCCP assets can provide augmentation to expand the area of coverage of existing systems, assist with wireless communications during planned events if necessary, or provide critical communications capabilities to local systems damaged during a hostile event or natural disaster.

To request MCCP assets, follow the same procedure you would for any other request, by working with the local emergency management coordinator via a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR).

4 Future System(s)

4.1 Approach and Methodology

Representatives from the ATCOG were gathered in a workshop with representatives from across the region. The workshop was used to develop the current RICP to determine where the counties currently stand with planning for public safety interoperable voice and data communication systems and associated funding. The need that every representative in the workshops discussed most often was the need for additional funding in order to complete interoperability projects.

4.2 Planning by County

The following sections list, by county, initiatives that have been completed, areas where deficiencies still exist, and plans for future systems to address those deficiencies.

Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties

4.2.1 Bowie County

Bowie County has two primary communications systems. The Sheriff's department is operating on a trunked 800 MHz system with approximately 100 subscriber units and the Volunteer Fire Department operates on a VHF system with approximately 150 subscriber units.

Completed:

- COG Networks have text to 9-1-1 Capabilities.
- Fire department added a mobile communications unit with additional communications capabilities.
- Most agencies in the county operate under a P25 system. Some new subscriber units were purchased for P25 compliancy.
- County agencies added a gateway to the resources available.
- Two standalone repeaters were added to the county to provide coverage in the rural areas and increase accessibility to the 800 MHz system.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** The portable and mobile radios in the county are very old and in need of replacement. All portable and mobile radios in the county, except recently purchased ones, are in need of updating. Radios should be multiband and at a minimum have access to the VHF and 800 MHz bands.
- **Deployable Backup Power Sources:** The county currently does not have sufficient deployable backup power for redundant solutions for critical infrastructure and communication site needs. The new sites have built in 24 hour backup power; however, the older sites still do not have sufficient backups.
- **Broadband:** County agencies do not have current broadband capabilities that would be considered operationally efficient for public safety. Some FirstNet devices have been purchased at this time. The county has one site tied in through DPS fiber and broadband access but would like to expand this access to other sites in the county.

- **CAD System Upgrade:** Currently CAD is outdated and not as efficient for operations as it needs to be. Currently trying to identify funding for a new CAD system in partnership with Texarkana.
- **Coverage Concerns:** Currently there are several zones within the county that lack proficient coverage for public safety operations. If the new towers can be tied into the existing system, only one additional tower is necessary to cover the dead zones in the county.
- **Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Radio System/Equipment:** The VFDs need to be added to the 800 MHz or a VHF system needs to be built out countywide to allow for the greatest interoperability and efficiency for public safety operations and to allow the combination of funding towards a similar goal. Currently there are 13 VFDs that have their own standalone sites/frequencies but they do not have a system for all of the agencies.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
 - Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
 - Communications Unit Training and Exercise
 - FirstNet
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- Purchase multiband P25 complaint radios.
- Need an additional radio site for 800 MHz coverage.
- Identify the best radio system solution for funding and the county VFD.

Funding Needs:

1. Funding is needed for all identified projects.

4.2.2 Cass County

[Add County Summary]

Completed:

- [What was completed]

Deficiencies: [Pick from below list and add a short explanation]

- **Antiquated Radios:** [Add antiquated radio information if applicable]
- **Backup Power Sources:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Back-up Power:** [Add backup power information if applicable]
- **Broadband:** [Add information if applicable]
- **CAD System Upgrade:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Coverage Concerns:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Dead Zones:** [Add dead zones information if applicable]
- **EMS Dispatch Upgrades:** [Add EMS dispatch upgrade information if applicable]
- **Encryption:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Equipment Upgrades:** [Add EOC equipment information if applicable]
- **Funding:** [Add information if applicable]
- **In-Building Coverage in the Hospital:**
- **In-building Coverage:** [Add inbuilding coverage information if applicable]
- **Interference:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Interoperability:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Hospital/Medical Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **M&E:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Mutual Aid Radios/Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **System-of-System Issues:** [Add information if applicable]
- **System Maintenance:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Medical Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **P25 Compatible Encryption:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Public Safety Broadband:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Redundant Power:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Satellite Device Upgrade:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Satellite Communications:** [Add backup power information if applicable]
- **Temporary Equipment:** [Add temporary equipment usage information if applicable]
- **Update End User Radios:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Upgrades:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Upgrade Needed in EOC PSAP:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Apparatus Radios:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Funding:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Radio System/Equipment:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:** [modify below bulleted list]
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability

- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
- Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
- Communications Unit Training and Exercise
- FirstNet
- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- [Add future system information if applicable].

Funding Needs: [Add funding needs information if applicable].

4.2.3 Delta County

Delta County is on a P25 shared radio system. Both the Sheriff's Office and the Volunteer Fire Department are on the system and there are 24 mobiles and over 50 portables on the system. The county is in great need of updating and expanding their system; however, they are severely limited by budget constraints.

Completed:

- COG networks have text to 9-1-1 capability.
- Sheriff and VFD are P25 compliant.
- All of the newly purchased portable radios are P25 compliant.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** The portable and mobile radios in the county are very old and in need of replacement. The County does replace a radio or two each year as funds become available, but is unable to keep up with changing technologies and increased prices of radios. All portable and mobile radios in the county, except recently purchased ones, are in need of updating.
- **Backup Power Sources:** The county currently does not have sufficient deployable backup power for redundant solutions for critical infrastructure and communication site needs. During the recent winter storms, the backup power went down and the county agencies were forced to use portable/direct talk paths while the power was being restored.
- **CAD System:** The County would like to upgrade to a CAD system to allow the responders a greater level of functionality when conducting public safety operations. The system has been purchased and will be deployed in the next couple of months.
- **PSAP Console Upgrade:** County PSAP consoles are outdated and are in need of updating. The County would like to add IP based consoles to the center which will allow greater functionality.
- **Coverage Concerns:** There are several fringe areas of the county that are lacking proper, if any, radio system coverage. The current system does not have enough sites to cover the entire geography of the county. Have recently received quotes to add one new site to the system, although at least three new sites are needed.
- **Encryption:** The County would like to update their radio system to include public safety grade encryption that will allow them secure talk paths while maintaining P25 compliancy.
- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Equipment Upgrades:** The current EOC is insufficient for current operations and is located, as needed, in the FD training room. The equipment used is often portable and not powerful or capable enough for emergency support in major incidents.
- **System Upgrade & Maintenance:** The radio system and all of its components are old and also insufficient for public safety operations to have reliable LMR communications at all times, resulting in using cell phones and other means to communicate official traffic when LMR is not available. In addition to updating the existing sites, multiple (at least three) new repeater sites are needed to provide the necessary coverage to locations that are lacking.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)

- Basic and Advanced Interoperability
- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
- Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
- Communications Unit Training and Exercise
- FirstNet
- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- Once funding is identified the county is in need of upgrading the antiquated radios the responders currently have, both portable and mobile.
- PSAP needs to update current consoles to IP based units that will allow a much greater level of functionality and information exchange.
- At least three repeater sites need to be added to the system to give more coverage and functionality to the system. At least three sites may be needed to provide sufficient countywide coverage.
- A standalone EOC facility is needed for the county. This may be deployable equipment to create the EOC in various locations as needed, as the current EOC is based around portable equipment in a training room.

Funding Needs:

- External funding needed through state or federal grant programs. Nearly \$300K is needed for the IP based consoles for the PSAP and to upgrade the portable and mobile radios for the county.

4.2.4 Franklin County

Franklin County is a rural community serving 295 square miles. The agencies in our county include Franklin County Office of Emergency Management, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Mount Vernon Police Department, Winnsboro Police Department, Franklin County Water District Lake Patrol, Mount Vernon Fire Department, South Franklin VFD, North Franklin VFD, Purly VFD, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Texas Game Wardens. All of our departments have mobile radios and portable radios that are P-25 capable but that are several years old law enforcement radios are approximately 10 to 15 years old and fire department radios are approximately 15 to 25 years old. Our radio infrastructure hasn't been upgraded for approximately 10 to 20 years, if not longer.

Completed:

- Text to 9-1-1 capability obtained.
- Law enforcement agencies became P25 compliant
- The 2021 budget provided the county with enough funding to purchase 15 new portables.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** End user radios in the county are very old and near end of life in many cases. The current radios are beyond the timeline for manufacturer support and responders are in need on a multiband solution to assist in mutual aid operations.
- **Back-up Power:** Currently, the County has an insufficient supply of deployable back up power to supply redundancy to key infrastructure and radio system sites that do not have sufficient back up power.
- **Encryption:** Law enforcement agencies in the county need a means of secure communications while maintaining P25 compliancy. AES encryption is necessary to give law enforcement agencies secure communications talk paths.
- **System Infrastructure:** The infrastructure for the county radio system is aging and in need of replacement. All towers, repeaters, antennas, cabling, and associate radios/servers need to be replaced with a modern P25 radio system.
- **VFD Radio System/Equipment:** The infrastructure and end user radios that the VFD uses are old and near end of life. The infrastructure can be housed in a new radio system; however, the end user radios will also need to be replaced.
- **PSAP Equipment:** The current workload for the PSAP is increasing dramatically and the County is in need of a dual station console due to the growing call volume in recent history that will not be decreasing in the future.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
 - Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
 - Communications Unit Training and Exercise
 - FirstNet
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator

- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- The Franklin County Sheriff's Office received a grant to provide them with 15 hand held radios for the 2021 budget year.

Funding Needs:

- \$1.0-\$1.5M in funds is needed to replace the current and antiquated radio system and end user radios.
- Franklin County needs funding to place new repeaters and equipment in three different locations within Franklin County. These locations would allow for LE and Fire to broadcast county wide. This cost is expected to be in the \$750K to \$1.0M range.

4.2.5 Hopkins County

Hopkins County has a 4-site P25 radio system with 150 Mobile and 400 portable radios. The system covers two PSAPs, 2 EOCs, the County Sheriff, County Fire (both paid and volunteer), EMS, City Police, City Fire, and one hospital.

Completed:

- Upgraded to have a CAD system for both PSAPs
- Built and installed a communications tower and the associated antennas, repeaters, etc.
- Mobile Communications trailer was purchased for county agencies.
- COG networks have text to 9-1-1 capability.
- All agencies have transitioned to complete P25 compliance.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** Agencies in the county have been unable to maintain a consistent radio replacement cycle and the mobile and portable radios are near or over end of life timeframes. Additionally, due to the neighboring counties and regions, multiband radios are needed to provide the proper levels of interoperability to allow responders to more efficiently respond in mutual aid situations.
- **Amateur Radio Resources:** The county is in need of additional amateur radio resources to provide another level of communications redundancy.
- **Coverage Concerns:** The Sheriff's Office has coverage concerns in the fringes of the county. The far west and far northeast sides of the county have little to no coverage. Additional sites are needed in these areas to provide sufficient coverage for public safety response.
- **PSAP Equipment Upgrades:** The PSAP radio communications equipment is in need of update. Current radios are not as capable as newer technologies and hinder dispatch operations during busy timeframes. These radios are out of the manufacturer maintenance cycle. Current radio system does not interface with the CAD system.
- **System Maintenance/Upgrades:** Many of pieces of equipment on each of the tower locations (antennas, cables, routers, etc.) are outdated and in need of replacement. The loss of a single site in the 4-site system would severely limit public safety communications.
- **Medical Communications:** Currently communications with medical facilities is lacking. Additional equipment and resources are needed in order to properly operate and communicate with medical facilities. Training for medical personnel to use the radio equipment.
- **Satellite Communications:** County agencies need to have a satellite redundancy for communications. No satellite resources are available at the local level.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
 - Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)

- Communications Unit Training and Exercise
- Public Safety Broadband
- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- The County is in need of a new primary tower site. The current site is a 52 year old tower that has been refurbished but is in need of replacement. By updating the site the system will become much more robust. The goal of this project would be to give responders more tools and functionality for communications and alleviate at least some of the county's coverage concerns.
- PSAP radio upgrades are in need of updating in the near future. The updated CAD system and radios do not leverage the full capabilities of the CAD system due to their age and capabilities.
- The county is in need of updating the antiquated radios, both portable and mobile. Most radio are near or at end of life.

Funding Needs:

- Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG) will be coming up shortly and the county will be submitting for funding to replace fire and EMS radios in the near future.

4.2.6 Lamar County

Lamar County is a rural Texas county with two primary radio systems. The County agencies use a multi-site VHF system with microwave backbone. The City of Paris uses a UHF system for their operational needs. The County system has several different channels for law, fire, and administrative needs that are used by both local and county agencies. There are two PSAPs and two EOCs in the county; one each at the Sheriff and Paris PD facilities.

Completed:

- Received a grant to upgrade dispatch consoles for the County center.
- Currently upgrading three repeaters on one system tower.
- COG networks have text to 9-1-1 capability
- In the process of fully upgrading system and end user radios to P25
- County has purchased a new trailer with additional communications capabilities.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** Although the county has received some grants recently, agencies are unable to keep up with the radio replacement cycle necessary for all responder's portable and mobile radios. Due to the makeup of surrounding counties frequency bands, multiband radios will be most effective.
- **Amateur Radio Resources:** The County is in need of additional amateur radio resources to provide another level of communications redundancy.
- **Coverage Concerns:** Due to terrain and county size, there are several areas of the county that lack sufficient RF coverage.
- **Deployable Back-up Power:** Currently, the county has an insufficient supply of deployable back up power to supply redundancy to key infrastructure and radio system sites that do not have sufficient back up power.
- **Encryption:** Law enforcement agencies in the county need a means of secure communications while maintaining P25 compliancy. AES encryption is necessary to give law enforcement agencies secure communications talk paths.
- **EOC Communications:** A new EOC is currently being built, however, funding for radio and IT capabilities is still needed to properly create the EOC space that is needed during disasters.
- **Satellite Communications:** The County is in need of additional satellite resources for redundancy. Recent summer and winter storms have knocked out primary means and not enough satellite resources area available.
- **System Maintenance:** The primary tower for the radio system is in need of replacement, as well as all of the system equipment, generators, cabling, internet access, and shelter. Currently, the county pays a great deal in maintenance every year, at an unknown amount due to failures of the system that need to be addressed immediately.
- **VFD Apparatus Radios:** All of the fire agencies in the county are VFDs and new equipment for communications comes straight form their budgets. Grants will be needed to upgrade the entire set of end user radios.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator

- Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
- Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
- Communications Unit Training and Exercise
- FirstNet
- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- The highest priority for the County is to replace the aging radio system tower and associated radio equipment. Expansion of the system to include additional sites would be ideal and allow for coverage dead zones to be smaller or nonexistent.
- Portable and mobile radios needs to be updated for all personnel and need to be multiband radios for both internal and external county communications.
- Upgrading to a CAD system that is available in all communications centers and vehicles.

Funding Needs:

- Although funding is identified from annual budgets, it is not enough for the entirety of the radio system and radios that the county needs to update.

4.2.7 Morris County

[Add County Summary]

Completed:

- [What was completed]

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** [Add antiquated radio information if applicable]
- **Backup Power Sources:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Back-up Power:** [Add backup power information if applicable]
- **Broadband:** [Add information if applicable]
- **CAD System Upgrade:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Coverage Concerns:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Dead Zones:** [Add dead zones information if applicable]
- **EMS Dispatch Upgrades:** [Add EMS dispatch upgrade information if applicable]
- **Encryption:** [Add information if applicable]
- **EOC Equipment Upgrades:** [Add EOC equipment information if applicable]
- **Funding:** [Add information if applicable]
- **In-Building Coverage in the Hospital:**
- **In-building Coverage:** [Add inbuilding coverage information if applicable]
- **Interference:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Interoperability:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Hospital/Medical Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **M&E:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Mutual Aid Radios/Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **System-of-System Issues:** [Add information if applicable]
- **System Maintenance:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Medical Communications:** [Add information if applicable]
- **P25 Compatible Encryption:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Public Safety Broadband:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Redundant Power:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Satellite Device Upgrade:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Satellite Communications:** [Add backup power information if applicable]
- **Temporary Equipment:** [Add temporary equipment usage information if applicable]
- **Update End User Radios:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Upgrades:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Upgrade Needed in EOC PSAP:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Apparatus Radios:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Funding:** [Add information if applicable]
- **VFD Radio System/Equipment:** [Add information if applicable]
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:** [modify below bulleted list]
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator

- Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
- Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
- Communications Unit Training and Exercise
- FirstNet
- Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- [Add future system information if applicable].

Funding Needs:

- Although funding is identified from annual budgets, it is not enough for the entirety of the radio system and radios that the county needs to update.

4.2.8 Red River County

Red River County is a rural Texas county with a single site radio system that serves the entire county. Agencies in the county are comprised of 11 volunteer fire departments, with four full time fire fighters, four local police departments, and the county Sheriff. Emergency medical services are provided through a private vendor and there are two clinics and no hospital in the county. The agencies within the county do not have a CAD system and overall the radio system and radios are antiquated and in need of replacement.

Completed:

- New portable and mobile radios have been purchased for county agencies using grant funds.

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** Although the county has received some grants recently, agencies are unable to keep up with the radio replacement cycle necessary for all responder's portable and mobile radios. Due to the makeup of surrounding counties' frequency bands, multiband radios will be most effective.
- **CAD System:** Currently the County has no CAD system for any of the agencies. Purchasing CAD will allow agencies to maintain better situational awareness during an incident and better records after.
- **Coverage Concerns:** There are two areas of concern in the county where coverage is lacking. The entire northern portion of the county and the southeast portion of the county are both in need of supplemental coverage considerations.
- **Encryption:** Law enforcement agencies in the county need a means of secure communications while maintaining P25 compliancy. AES encryption is necessary to give law enforcement agencies secure communications talk paths.
- **System Maintenance:** The primary tower for the radio system is in need of replacement, as well as all of the system equipment, generators, cabling, internet access, and shelter. Currently, the County pays a great deal in maintenance every year, at an unknown amount due to failures of the system that need to be addressed immediately. A new system should have additional sites to ensure coverage issues are addressed.
- **VFD Apparatus Radios:** All of the fire agencies in the county are VFDs and new equipment for communications comes straight from their budgets. Grants will be needed to upgrade the entire set of end user radios.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
 - Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
 - Communications Unit Training and Exercise
 - FirstNet
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- The highest priority for the county is to replace the aging radio system tower and associated radio equipment. Expansion of the system to include additional sites would be ideal and allow for coverage dead zones to be smaller or nonexistent.
- Many radios in the full time and volunteer agencies are in need of an upgrade or replacement. The need for multiband radios is becoming more prominent due to other surrounding counties being on disparate radio frequency bands.
- The agencies in the county could use a CAD system to help them maintain situational awareness of activities during an incident and help with record keeping after.

Funding Needs:

- Grants have been received to replace some of the antiquated radios.

4.2.9 Titus County

Titus County is approximately 400 square miles. It is quite diverse in the land use and population. In 2019 the estimated population was 33,000. It contains 3 incorporated cities: Mt. Pleasant, which is the county seat; Winfield; and Talco. The land use in the unincorporated areas ranges from open pasture land to pine plantations and hardwood stands with numerous subdivisions and large homes scattered throughout. Two independent school districts and a junior college as well as an electrical power plant are located in the incorporated areas. There are many miles of roads including 20 miles of Interstate 30. Additionally, there is 15 miles of rail line that runs through the county as well as the City of Mt. Pleasant downtown area. There are 3 large lakes in the county and a state park that attract large numbers of people to the county. All the above sets the stage for the possibility of a natural or manmade disaster where critical communication is required. Emergency services are provided by the following agencies: Mt. Pleasant Police Department, Titus County Sheriff's Department, Mt. Pleasant Fire Department, 5-Star, Argo, Cookville, Nortex, Sugar Hill, Talco, and Tri-Lakes VFDs, Titus Regional Medical Center (TRMC) EMS, Pct. 1 & 2 Constables, Sandlin Lake Patrol, Texas Game Wardens and DPS. Mt. Pleasant, Chapel Hill and Northeast Texas Community College have their own police departments. Mt. Pleasant Police Department dispatches their resources and all fire resources, TRMC EMS's dispatch center is located in Texarkana and dispatches their resources, and Titus County SO dispatches the rest of the resources. Mt. Pleasant Public Works and Titus County Commissioners provide support services as well. All agencies operate on conventional VHF radio systems with the exception of TRMC and Titus County Commissioners, which operate on UHF, and the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, which operates on a 700 MHz trunked system. The majority of the portables, mobiles and repeaters were purchased with Homeland Security Grant Funds and are from 10-17 years old. The exceptions are the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, which installed a 700 MHz trunked system in 2018, and the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department, which purchased portable radios in 2018. Mt. Pleasant Fire also has a mobile communications/command platform equipped with VHF/UHF/700/800 radios and gateway. It is also equipped with satellite internet and sat phone. It is a registered resource with Texas Department of Public Safety Communications Coordination Group for regional and/or state deployment.

Completed:

- There was nothing to be accomplished from the last one

Deficiencies:

- **Antiquated Radios:** As stated above most radios are old and nearing end of life. Exceptions are Mt. Pleasant Police Department that installed a 700 MHz system in 2017 and the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department that replaced all the VHF portable radios in 2018 with P25 capable and has replaced some of the mobile radios since then as well.
- **CAD System Upgrade:** End of life, consider standardization across the county and a unified dispatch.
- **Coverage Concerns:** SO, EMS, FD has dead zones north of town, 271 south, Chapel Hill/NTCC.
- **Dead Zones:** See cover concerns above.
- **EMS Dispatch Upgrades:** Moving to a central dispatch with fire, sheriff, and police. LifeNet contract renewed in Fall of 2020 for 12 mos.

- **In-building Coverage:** Fire/SO/EMS: There are some buildings in town, mainly big box stores where it is hard to communicate out of. Metal buildings and roofs are problematic. The problem increases the further resources get from the communications towers in Mt. Pleasant, even in residences, which can jeopardize responder safety.
- **Interference:** MPFD: There are times when some fire departments in Oklahoma interfere with our repeater channel. We hear them very clearly. We also have some departments in Texas near us that use the same frequencies but different sub-audible tones. We can hear them when we have open squelch but when the squelch is closed one can tell the signal is distorted, similar to when two people are trying to talk at the same time.
- **Interoperability:** All VHF portable and mobile radios should be programmed with all the VHF interoperable channels. Mt. Pleasant Fire also has multiple gateways with VHF/UHF and 700/800 radios attached.
- **System-of-System Issues:** Multiple systems being used in the county, consider standardization. See future systems below.
- **Public Safety Broadband:** Until AT&T can provide a strong reliable signal here, connecting to FirstNet is not possible. However, when and if that time comes, then funding will be needed to accomplish this.
- **Satellite Device Upgrade:** Upgrade to comm trailer and SAT phones.
- **Satellite Communications:** Upgrade to comm trailer and SAT phones.
- **Update End User Radios:** See future systems below.
- **Upgrades:** Establish a Central Dispatch Center for all law enforcement, fire and EMS in Titus County.
- **VFD Apparatus Radios:** As stated above, many of the radios in the VFDs are old with some nearing end of life use, and parts are not available to repair them.
- **VFD Funding:** Funding is a major problem for VFDs. They receive monthly payments from the County; however, it is used mostly for maintenance of buildings and apparatus. Some of the VFDs have fund raisers but these two funding sources will not support wholesale replacement of their mobile and portable radios, especially if it is with P25 compliant radios.
- **VFD Radio System/Equipment:** The VFDs, with the exception of Talco, operate on the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department radio system. The VFDs are responsible for the purchase and repair of the portable and mobile radios. MPFD is responsible for the maintenance of the repeater. Mt. Pleasant Police Department does all the dispatching of fire resources, including Talco.
- **Training and Exercise Requirements:**
 - Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM)
 - Basic and Advanced Interoperability
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator
 - Basic Trunked/Analog Radio System Training
 - Communication Assets and Mapping Tool (CASM)
 - Communications Unit Training and Exercise
 - FirstNet
 - Basic and Advanced Telecommunicator, EMD and cross training for dispatch.

- Training on SOPs for state and national interoperability frequency management

Future Systems:

- As stated above, the portables, mobiles, and repeaters are all aging and nearing end of life except for the Mt. Pleasant Police Department's (MPPD) 700 MHz trunked system. In 2018 the City of Mt. Pleasant purchased the 700 MHz system for approximately \$900,000. The system is only being used by the MPPD which only has about 40 personnel. The abilities of the system are far from being exceeded by the number of radios on the system. To provide more reliable communications, safety for first responders countywide, and to fully utilize the 700 MHz system, we are working towards having all first responder agencies migrate to the 700 MHz system. This will be done over several years. To accomplish this, talk groups will be established on the 700 MHz system for all first responder agencies, and the agencies will begin to integrate dual band P25 radios that are 700 MHz and agencies' specific frequencies (UHF or VHF) into the agencies. The 700 MHz talk group will be patched via gateway to the agency's UHF or VHF frequency until total integration is achieved. This will allow those that are using the 700 MHz radios and those still using the VHF and UHF radios to still communicate. The VHF/UHF channels in the radio are also necessary to communicate with agencies in our region that use those frequencies for operable communications as well as the use of the interoperable frequencies.

Funding Needs:

- The estimated cost for all first responder agencies to migrate to the 700 MHz system with all vehicles and personnel equipped with P25 dual band radios is approximately \$1.8 million.

5 Priorities

This section summarizes the ATCOG goals, including a description of timelines associated with short-, medium-, and long-term goals. The goals of this RICP are aligned with the major lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum as well as the NECP.

Goal timelines are defined as the following:

- **Short-term:** includes priorities projected for completion within 3 years from ratification of the RICP
- **Medium-term:** includes priorities projected for completion between 3 and 5 years from ratification of the RICP
- **Long-term:** includes priorities projected for completion between 6 and 10 years from ratification of the RICP

5.1 Bowie County

5.1.1 Priority/Goal Description: Multiband Radio Replacement Cycle

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Bowie County Emergency Management/Sheriff's Office

Point of Contact:

Agency Name: Bowie County

POC Name: Lance Hall

Title: Emergency Manager

Address: 710 James Bowie Drive, New Boston, Texas

Office Phone 903-628-6776:

Cell Phone: 903-277-1531

24/7 Phone: 903-277-1531 or 24 hour dispatch 903-798-3189

E-Mail: lhall@txkusa.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grant and future budget monies will be needed

5.1.2 Priority/Goal Description: Acquisition and Installation of a Stand-alone Tower on the 800 MHz System

Priority Level: Medium **Priority Time:** Medium

Lead Agency: Bowie County Emergency Management

Point of Contact: Lance Hall

Agency Name: Bowie County Emergency management
POC Name: Lance Hall
Title: Emergency Manager
Address: 710 James Bowie Drive, New Boston, Texas
Office Phone: 903-628-6776
Cell Phone: 903-277-1531
24/7 Phone: 903-277-1531
E-Mail: lhall@txkusa.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grant and future budget monies will be needed

5.1.3 Priority/Goal Description: Consolidated VFD onto the 800 MHz System or Countywide VHF (engineering study needed)

Priority Level: Low **Priority Time:** Low

Lead Agency: Bowie County Emergency Management

Point of Contact: Lance Hall

Agency Name: Bowie County Emergency Management
POC Name: Lance Hall
Title: Bowie County Emergency Manager
Address: 710 James Bowie Drive, New Boston, Texas
Office Phone: 903-628-6776
Cell Phone: 903-277-1531
24/7 Phone: 903-277-1531
E-Mail: lhall@txkusa.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grant and future budget monies will be needed

5.2 Cass County

Priority/Goal Description: [Add description]

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Robin Betts

Agency Name: City of Atlanta

Title: EMC

Address:

Office Phone:

Cell Phone: 903-799-0542

E-Mail: rbetts@atlantatexas.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.3 Delta County

5.3.1 Priority/Goal Description: Radio Replacement Cycle for Portables and Mobiles

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Tanner Crutcher

Agency Name: Delta County

Title: EMC

Address: 200 W Dallas Ave, Cooper Tx 75432

Office Phone: 903-395-4400

Cell Phone: 903-395-2146

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: tcrutcher@deltacountytx.com

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.3.2 Priority/Goal Description: Updating PSAP Consoles to IP Based

Priority Level: Low/Medium/High **Priority Time:** Low/Medium/High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Tanner Crutcher

Agency Name: Delta County

Title: EMC

Address: 200 W Dallas Ave, Cooper Tx 75432

Office Phone: 903-395-4400

Cell Phone: 903-395-2146

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: tcrutcher@deltacountytx.com

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs

- [Add Funding Needs]
- [Add Funding Needs]

5.3.3 Priority/Goal Description: Three Additional Repeater Sites Needed

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Tanner Crutcher

Agency Name: Delta County

Title: EMC

Address: 200 W Dallas Ave, Cooper Tx 75432

Office Phone: 903-395-4400

Cell Phone: 903-395-2146

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: tcrutcher@deltacountytx.com

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.4 Franklin County

5.4.1 Priority/Goal Description: Replace Radio Infrastructure for County Radio System

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Josh Dailey

Agency Name: Franklin County

Title: EMC

Address: 208 TX-37, Mt Vernon, TX 75457

Office Phone: 903-537-4539

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: Jdaily@co.franklin.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - 1-1.5 Million needed to replace the Radio System

5.5 Hopkins County

5.5.1 Priority/Goal Description: Upgrading the Primary Radio Tower Site

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Andy Endsley

Agency Name: Hopkins County Fire Department

Title: EMC

Address: 1286 Texas St # B, Sulphur Springs, TX

Office Phone: 903-439-6217

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: aendsley@hopkinscountytexas.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.5.2 Priority/Goal Description: Updating PSAP Radio Equipment

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Andy Endsley

Agency Name: Hopkins County Fire Department

Title: EMC

Address: 1286 Texas St # B, Sulphur Springs, TX

Office Phone: 903-439-6217

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: aendsley@hopkinscountytexas.org **Action plan:** [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.5.3 Priority/Goal Description: Radio Replacement Cycle

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Andy Endsley

Agency Name: Hopkins County Fire Department

Title: EMC

Address: 1286 Texas St # B, Sulphur Springs, TX

Office Phone: 903-439-6217

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: aendsley@hopkinscountytexas.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams (Where is the money for this project)
 - Or we have identified 0 dollars for this funding
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.6 Lamar County

5.6.1 Priority/Goal Description: Replace and Upgrade Existing Radio System to a Multi System

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Quincy Blount

Agency Name: Lamar County

Title: EMC

Address: 231 Lamar Ave, Paris Texas 75460

Office Phone: 903-782-1118

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: qblount@co.lamar.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

Priority/Goal Description: Replace antiquated portable and Mobile radios with Multiband radios

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Quincy Blount

Agency Name: Lamar County

Title: EMC

Address: 231 Lamar Ave, Paris Texas 75460

Office Phone: 903-782-1118

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: qblount@co.lamar.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

5.6.2 Priority/Goal Description: Purchase CAD System for County Agencies and Vehicles

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Quincy Blount

Agency Name: Lamar County

Title: EMC

Address: 231 Lamar Ave, Paris Texas 75460

Office Phone: 903-782-1118

Cell Phone:

E-Mail: qblount@co.lamar.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

5.7 Morris County

Priority/Goal Description: [Add description]

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Brandon Singletary

Agency Name: Morris County

Title: EMC

Address: 500 Broadnax, Ste B Daingerfield Tx 75638

Office Phone: 903-563-4103

Cell Phone: 903-563-4103

E-Mail: brandon.singletary@co.morris.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams (Where is the money for this project)
 - Or we have identified 0 dollars for this funding
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.8 Red River County

5.8.1 Priority/Goal Description: Replace and Upgrade Existing Radio System to a 3-Site System

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Amanda Willow

Agency Name: Red River County

Title: EMC

Address: 400 N Walnut Street, Clarksville Texas, 75426

Office Phone:

Cell Phone: 903-732-7860

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: emc@co.red-river.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

5.8.2 Priority/Goal Description: Replace Antiquated Portable and Mobile Radios with Multiband Radios

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Amanda Willow

Agency Name: Red River County

Title: EMC

Address: 400 N Walnut Street, Clarksville Texas, 75426

Office Phone:

Cell Phone: 903-732-7860

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: emc@co.red-river.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

5.8.3 Priority/Goal Description: Purchase CAD System for County Agencies

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Amanda Willow

Agency Name: Red River County

Title: EMC

Address: 400 N Walnut Street, Clarksville Texas, 75426

Office Phone:

Cell Phone: 903-732-7860

24/7 Phone:

E-Mail: emc@co.red-river.tx.us

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - None Identified
- Additional funding needs
 - Grants Needed

5.9 Titus County

5.9.1 Priority/Goal Description: Antiquated Radio System Infrastructure

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Larry McRae

Agency Name: Titus County

Title: EMC

Address: 100 West First Street Mt Pleasant, Texas, 75455

Office Phone: 903-575-4144

E-Mail: lmcr@mpcity.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams (Where is the money for this project)
 - Or we have identified 0 dollars for this funding
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
- Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
 - [Add Funding Needs]

5.9.2 Priority/Goal Description: Antiquated Radio Replacement

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** High

Lead Agency: Ark Tex Council of Governments

Point of Contact: Larry McRae

Agency Name: Titus County

Title: EMC

Address: 100 West First Street Mt Pleasant, Texas, 75455

Office Phone: 903-575-4144

E-Mail: lmcr@mpcity.org

Action plan: [Insert known text here such as migration plan, known milestones, order of operations, etc.]

Funding:

- Identified funding streams (Where is the money for this project)
 - Or we have identified 0 dollars for this funding
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - [Add Funding Streams]
 - Additional funding needs
 - [Add Funding Needs]
- [Add Funding Needs]

6 ATCOG Regional Priorities

This section summarizes the ATCOG goals, including a description of timelines associated with short-, medium-, and long-term goals. The goals of this RICP are aligned with the major lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum as well as the NECP.

Goal timelines are defined as the following:

- **Short-term:** includes priorities projected for completion within 3 years from ratification of the RICP
- **Medium-term:** includes priorities projected for completion between 3 and 5 years from ratification of the RICP
- **Long-term:** includes priorities projected for completion between 6 and 10 years from ratification of the RICP

6.1 ATCOG Priority Regionwide Engineering Assessment

Priority/Goal Description: ATCOG has 9 counties and a number of municipalities in the region that are in need of updated or new radio system infrastructure, including towers, antenna, repeaters, cabling, protective structures, etc. Every county in the COG has some type of radio system infrastructure upgrade or replacement as a top priority of the county. An engineering study to identify the best approach for combined efforts for the reason is needed to ensure the most efficient and cost effective method moving forward.

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** Short-Term

Lead Agency: ATCOG

Point of Contact:

Agency Name: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)
POC Name: Whitney Fezell
Title: Homeland Security Planner
Address: 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas 75503
Office Phone: 903-255-3554
E-Mail: wfezell@atcog.org

Action plan: ATCOG representatives contacted the Texas SWIC's office to request a CISA/ICTAP Technical Assistance project in the form of a regional engineering assessment. The Assessment was approved and will be conducted in early 2022.

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant
 - CISA ICTAP Technical Assistance

6.2 ATCOG Priority Updating Antiquated Radio Infrastructure

Priority/Goal Description: ATCOG has 9 counties and a number of municipalities in the region that are in need of updated or new radio system infrastructure, including towers, antenna, repeaters, cabling, protective structures, etc. Every county in the COG has some type of radio system infrastructure upgrade or replacement as a top priority of the county.

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** Medium-Term

Lead Agency: ATCOG

Point of Contact:

Agency Name: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)
POC Name: Whitney Fezell
Title: Homeland Security Planner
Address: 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas 75503
Office Phone: 903-255-3554
E-Mail: wfezell@atcog.org

Action plan: ATCOG representatives contacted the Texas SWIC's office to request a CISA/ICTAP Technical Assistance project in the form of a regional engineering assessment. The Assessment was approved and will be conducted in early 2022.

Funding:

- Identified funding streams
 - Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant

6.3 ATCOG Priority Updating Antiquated Portable and Mobile Radios

Priority/Goal Description: Every county in the COG had as one of their top priorities to replace aging portable and mobile radio for nearly all agencies within their counties. The logical step to take is to include any radio purchases with an associated update or replacement to the radio system infrastructure, if contracted.

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** Medium-Term

Lead Agency: ATCOG

Point of Contact:

Agency Name: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)
POC Name: Whitney Fezell
Title: Homeland Security Planner
Address: 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas 75503
Office Phone: 903-255-3554
E-Mail: wfezell@atcog.org

Action plan: ATCOG representatives contacted the Texas SWIC's office to request a CISA/ICTAP Technical Assistance project in the form of a regional engineering assessment. The Assessment was approved and will be conducted in early 2022.

Funding:

- Identified funding streams

6.4 ATCOG Priority Updated PSAP Equipment and Software

Priority/Goal Description: Several of the counties in the region identified some kind of PSAP capability or technology to be updated or replaced.

Priority Level: High **Priority Time:** Short-Term

Lead Agency: ATCOG

Point of Contact:

Agency Name: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)
POC Name: Whitney Fezell
Title: Homeland Security Planner
Address: 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas 75503
Office Phone: 903-255-3554
E-Mail: wfezell@atcog.org

Action plan: ATCOG representatives contacted the Texas SWIC's office to request a CISA/ICTAP Technical Assistance project in the form of a regional engineering assessment. The Assessment was approved and will be conducted in early 2022.

Funding:

- Identified funding streams

6.5 Planning Summary

The timeline, milestones, and projected costs for the plans delineated above are summarized in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A PARTICIPATING, COUNTIES, JURISDICTIONS, AND AGENCIES

Table 1: Participating Counties/Jurisdictions/Agencies

Region/County/Urban Area	Agency Phone#
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	903-691-2511
Bowie County	903-798-3101
Cass County	903-748-6375
Delta County	903-395-4400
Franklin County	903-457-4539
Hopkins County	903-314-1652
Lamar County	903-249-3134
Morris County	903-645-2114
Red River County	903-427-2680
Titus County	903-575-4100

Ark-Tex Council of Governments Emergency Preparedness Taskforce

Table 2: ATCOG POC Information

NAME	JURISDICTION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL

State Agencies Contact Information

Table 3: ATCOG State Agencies POC Information

State Agency	POC Name	Emergency Contact Information
State Communications Coordinator	Janice Bruno	512-466-6589
Texas Department of Public Safety	Holly Faison	713-569-0125; holly.faison@txdps.state.tx.us
Texas Department of Public Safety	Cindy Hood	512-377-0020; cindy.hood@txdps.state.tx.us
Texas Forest Service	Jared Goodman	409-423-2890; jgoodman@tfs.tamu.edu
Texas Department of Transportation	Steve Templeton	409-898-5735; steve.templeton@txdot.state.tx.us

Federal Agencies Contacts

Table 4: ATCOG Federal Agencies POC Information

Federal Agency	POC Name	Emergency Contact Information
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Michael Davis	214-797-1256; michael.davis@ic.fbi.gov
Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms	James Whatley	281-372-3262; james.whatley@atf.gov
United States Forest Service	Bruce Silvey	936-366-1033
US Army Corps of Engineers	Sam Gramlich	409-384-5716; samuel.j.gramlich@usace.army.mil
Congressman Kevin Brady	Sarah Stephens	936-441-5700
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Gary Jones	940-898-5399
Congressman Louie Gohmert		

Tribal Agencies and Contact Information

Table 5: Tribal Agencies POC Information

Tribal Agency	POC Name	Emergency Contact Information

Nongovernmental Agencies and Contact Information

Table 6: Nongovernmental Agencies POC Information

Organization	POC Name	Emergency Contact Information

Amateur Radio Teams

Table 7: Amateur Radio Teams POC Information

Name/Location	Email	Phone	Organization	Call-sign
Mike Miles	wd5efy@arrl.net	936-631-1521	ARES	WD5EFY
Mike Miles	wd5efy@arrl.net	936-631-1521	RACES	WD5EFY
Gordon Thibodeaux	gordon.thibodeaux@co.sabine.tx.us	409-787-2409	MARS	AARQZ
Tom Trissell		903-517-1787	Red River CO	KC5ILO
Ed Olague		903-885-7530	Hopkins CO	KE5DOP
Rosalio E. Salas	lsalas@1starnet.com		Red River Valley Club	WB5RDD
Robert Game	KC5NTGEC@wmconnect.com	903-293-4963	Cass County	

APPENDIX B TIMELINE/MILESTONE/COST ESTIMATE, BASIC REQUIREMENTS

[Add ATCOG Timeline/Milestones/Cost Estimate from Excel sheet]

APPENDIX D REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT

CASM Overview

The Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool provides the ability for representatives of public safety agencies to collect, store, and visualize communication assets, and analyze interoperability gaps.

The communications asset information contained in CASM was used in assessing communications capabilities in the ATCOG to aid in preparing the RICP.

Authorization to view data for a particular area or State is controlled by the Administrative Manager (AM); each user must have a username and password in order to login.

The Regional CASM Administrative Manager/POC is listed in the following table:

Table 8: Regional CASM AM POC Information

POC Name	Phone#	Email	Area of Responsibility
Karla Jurrens	512-424-2104	karla.jurrens@dps.texas.gov	State of Texas
John McDowell	936-433-4011	jmcdowell@atcog.org	Program Administrator
Robin Wright	409-423-0458	rwright@atcog.org	Coordinator/Systems Manager
Mary Beth Rudel	903-691-2511	mrudel@atcog.org	Region Administrator
Brenda Stone	903-691-0652	bkstone@atcog.org	Region Administrator

APPENDIX E REFERENCES

National

- A Guide for Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation, (DHS/CISA): <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/ictapscip-resources>
- American Radio Relay League (ARRL): www.arrl.org
- APCO International: www.apcointl.org
- Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) is a reference for auxiliary communicators who directly support backup emergency communications for State/local public safety entities or for an amateur radio organization supporting public safety. <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/resources>.
- The Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool is a web-based application that provides the ability for representatives of public safety agencies within an urban area or state to collect, store, and visualize data about agencies, communication assets, and how agencies use those assets. <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/resources>.
- Communications Unit Leader Training: <http://www.dhs.gov/video/communications-unit-leader-training>
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Public Safety Technical Assistance Tools: <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/resources>.
- DHS CISA FY2021 TA/SCIP Guide Highlights & Offerings: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/FY2021_TA_SCIP_Guide_Signed_508.pdf
- Department of Homeland Security Target Capabilities List (TCL): <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/training/tcl.pdf>
- Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List (UTL): <http://www.ncrhomelandsecurity.org/ncr/downloads/Universal%20Task%20List.pdf>
- EMAC: www.emacweb.org
- FCC ULS: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC):
 - FCC Enforcement Bureau: www.fcc.gov/eb
 - FCC Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau: www.fcc.gov/psbs
 - FCC Special Temporary Authority (STA): <https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/special-temporary-authority>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov
- First National Strategy for Homeland Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/first-national-strategy-homeland-security>

- Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS): <http://www.dhs.gov/gets>
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN): <https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-information-network-hsin>
- Lessons Learned Information Sharing: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/104192>
- National Emergency Communications Plan: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-emergency-communications-plan>
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information: <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>
- National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG): <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/fog-documents>
- National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC): www.nifc.gov
- National Interagency Incident Communications: www.fs.fed.us/fire/niicd
- The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a collection of technical, operational, and regulatory reference material for radio technicians responsible for radios that can be used in disaster response applications, and for emergency communications planners.
<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/National%20Interoperability%20Field%20Operations%20Guide%20v1.6.1.pdf>
- National Preparedness Guidelines: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-preparedness-guidelines>
- National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC): www.npstc.org
- National Regional Planning Council (NRPC): www.nrpc.us
- National Response Framework: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1466014682982-9bcf8245ba4c60c120aa915abe74e15d/National_Response_Framework3rd.pdf
- National Response Plan: https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NRP_Brochure.pdf
- National Telecommunications & Information Admin (NTIA): <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/home>
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG): www.nwcg.gov
- FCC public safety radio pool eligibility for statewide use of interoperability channels within Texas: <http://publicsafety.fcc.gov/pshs/releases/index.htm>
- Radio Reference: www.radioreference.com
- SAFECOM: <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom>
- SAFECOM Training and Exercise: <https://www.dhs.gov/safecom/training-and-exercises>

- Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP): <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/documents/texasSCIP.pdf>
- Wildland Fire Communications: <https://www.nifc.gov/NIICD/>
- Wireless Priority Service (WPS): <http://www.dhs.gov/wps>

Texas

- Texas Government Charter 421: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/GrantsResources/txEmerMgtStatutes.pdf>
- Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan or (TSICP) and MOU: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/documents/tsicpMOU.pdf>
- Texas Communication Field Operations Guide: <https://casmnextgen.com/pslib/index.php/webview?docid=186>
- Training and Exercises Templates:
 - <https://pslib.casmnextgen.com/pslib/index.php/webview> (Search for 'Texas')
- RGCOG RSOP: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/index.aspx>
- Alabama–Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a federally recognized tribe of Alabama and Koasati in Polk County, Texas. <http://www.alabama-coushatta.com/>

COGs

- 01 Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC): www.theprpc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=PRPC.php>
- 02 South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG): www.spag.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=SPAG.php>
- 03 Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX): www.nortexrpc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=NORTEX.php>
- 04 North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG): www.nctcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=NCTCOG.php>
- 05 Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ARK-TEK): www.atcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=ARKTEX.php>
- 06 East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG): www.ETCOG.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=ETCOG.php>
- 07 West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG): www.wctcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=WCTCOG.php>
- 08 Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG): www.riocog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=RGCOG.php>
- 09 Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC): www.pbrpc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=PBRPC.php>
- 10 Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG): www.cvcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=CVCOG.php>

- 11 Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG): www.hotcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=HOTCOG.php>
- 12 Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG): www.capcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=CAPCOG.php>
- 13 Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG): www.bvcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=BVCOG.php>
- 14 Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG): www.DETCOG.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=DETCOG.php>
- 15 South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC): www.setrpc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=SETRPC.php>
- 16 Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC):
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=H-GAC.php>
- 17 Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC): www.gcrpc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=GCRPC.php>
- 18 Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG): www.aacog.com
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=AACOG.php>
- 19 South Texas Development Council (STDC): www.stdc.cog.tx.us
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=STDC.php>
- 20 Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG): www.cbco98.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=CBTCOG.php>
- 21 Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC): www.lrgvdc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=LRGVDC.php>
- 22 Texoma Council of Governments (TEXOMA): www.texoma.cog.tx.us
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=TCOG.php>
- 23 Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG): www.ctcog.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=CTCOG.php>
- 24 Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC): www.mrgdc.org
<https://www.txregionalcouncil.org/display.php?page=MRGDC.php>

RSOP Links to Referenced Documents

Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP):

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/documents/texasSCIP.pdf>

Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP):

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/documents/tsicpMOU.pdf>

Texas Communication Field Operations Guide:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/LawEnforcementSupport/communications/interop/documents/txCommFldOpsGuide.pdf>

Texas Training and Exercises Templates:

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/Preparedness/exerciseUnit/TrainExerPlan.htm>

APPENDIX F GLOSSARY

Item/Acronym	Definition
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AFG	Assistance to Firefighters Grant
AM	Administrative Manager
APCO	Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials
ARRL	American Radio Relay League
ATCOG	Ark-Tex Council of Governments (Region 5) (Arkansas-Texas)
AUXCOMM	Auxiliary Communications
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CASM	Communication Assets Survey and Mapping
CISA	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
COG	Council Of Governments
COMU	Communications Unit
COW	Cellular on Wheels
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FCC	Federal Communication Commission
FD	Fire Department
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRS	Family Radio Service
GETS	Government Emergency Telecommunications Service
HF	High Frequency
HSIN	Homeland Security Information Network
Interoperable	Ability of a system to use the parts or equipment of another system
LE	Law Enforcement
LMR	Land Mobile Radio
MAA	Mutual Aid Agreement
MCCP	Mobile Communications Command Program
MHz	Abbreviation for megahertz. 5 MHz = 5,000,000 Hz or 5,000 kHz.

Item/Acronym	Definition
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Mutual Aid	Personnel, equipment, or services provided to another jurisdiction
NECP	National Emergency Communications Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organizations
NIFC	National Interagency Fire Center
NIFOG	National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NPSTC	National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
NRF	National Response Framework
NRPC	National Regional Planning Council
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
P25	Project 25
PD	Police Department
POC	Point of Contact
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
RGOV	Regional Governance Structures
RICP	Regional Interoperable Communications Plan
RIMP	Regional Interoperable Migration Plans
RSOP	Regional Standard Operating Procedures
Rx	Receive
SCC	State Coordinator for Communications
SCIP	Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan
SERI	Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant
SO	Sheriff's Office
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOW	Site on Wheels
STAR	State of Texas Assistance Request
SWIC	Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
TCL	Target Capability List
TSICP	Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan
Tx	Transmit

Item/Acronym	Definition
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
TxDPS	Texas Department of Public Safety
TxICC	Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition
TxSCIP	Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan
UTL	Universal Task List
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department
VOAD	Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
VHF	Very High Frequency – For public safety LMR, usually refers to VHF High Band with a range of 136 to 164 MHz VHF Low Band has a frequency range below 100 MHz
WPS	Wireless Priority Service