



ALASKA LAND MOBILE RADIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(A Federal, State and Municipal Partnership)



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

August XX, 2023

FROM: DOD Co-Chair

SUBJECT: July 20 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein

Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow

State of Alaska – Department of Public Safety

Chief Michael Kerle

Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Mr. Trygve Erickson

Municipality of Anchorage (via teleconference)

Mr. Nikalus Fahnstock

ALMR System Manager

Mr. Paul Fussey

ALMR Operations Manager

Mr. Zach Haas

Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)

Mr. David Reed

Information Systems Security Manager

Mr. Jim Nicholl

Motorola Solutions

Mr. Joe Piksa

Motorola Solutions

Mr. John Rockwell

User Council Chair

Mr. Pete Rogell

BK Technologies (via teleconference)

Mr. Scott Stormo

Alaska Public Safety Communication Services

Mr. Timothy Woodall

ALCOM PM/COR

Ms. Sherry Shafer

Operations Management Office (via teleconference)

1. **Call to Order.** Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein, Department of Defense (DOD) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The roll was read, and a quorum of Executive Council members were present.

2. **Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Colonel Meerstein asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Colonel Meerstein asked the members if they had a chance to review the draft meeting minutes from the April Executive Council meeting and if there were any requested changes. There were no requested changes.

Motion: Approve the April 12, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow and seconded by Colonel Meerstein. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. **Old Business.**

a. SOA Quantar Replacement. Colonel Meerstein asked Mr. Scott Stormo if there were any updates.

Mr. Stormo stated that all the Quantars have been replaced and right now they are doing some antenna remediation work. They are on about site 22 or 23 this week and this will be about 75 percent done with the revisits.

Mr. Stormo advised they are still waiting for approval for Smart Connect to be able to be added. He explained the FedRamp approval that they have talked about for quite a while will enable some of the features that we talked about before such as LTE connections in the radios, Wi-Fi connections into the radio system, and location on push to talk. Mr. Stormo briefed everything was progressing as well as we can expect it at this point.

Mr. John Rockwell added that in talking to FirstNet regarding the FedRamp approval process for Smart Connect, they realized that it's a nationwide issue and he realizes that this is not just Alaska, but this is a federal issue that they're trying to resolve for push-to-talk connectivity within LMR systems and they did not have any updates on the timeline. He noted they are trying to pursue it and make any changes or suggestions that is going on regarding the FedRamp approval.

Ms. Sherry Shafer asked the chair if he wanted to update the title to this item since the Quantars have all been replaced to the state upgrade project and Mr. Rockwell suggested since the project upgrade status is often briefed by Mr. Stormo, Mr. Fussey, and Mr. Fahnstock that maybe this could be deleted and then just keep having the updates to it through the standard update process.

Ms. Shafer clarified the recommendation was to close this item and Deputy Commissioner Barlow concurred with that. Colonel Meerstein stated he was in agreement. **(CLOSED)**

b. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Colonel Meerstein noted this item has been tabled.

c. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Colonel Meerstein asked Mr. John Rockwell if there were updates from the last meeting.

Mr. Rockwell noted the 9-1-1 working group was still meeting on a monthly basis with breakout groups like GIS and he believed they will have the report to the Governor by the required date, which is December 31.

d. Fiduciary Responsibilities. Colonel Meerstein asked Mr. Tim Woodall if he had anything new to add to this.

Mr. Woodall briefed they have a 55-page document, that is referred to as an inter-governmental service agreement which addresses a number of areas where there are some modifications that are required as it goes through the coordination process. He advised it will go through the DOD wickets and then come to the State and it addresses mutual responsibilities between the two entities. Mr. Woodall added he thought they would need to slip some language in there to address the Municipality of Anchorage as it primarily addresses the DOD and State of Alaska relationship from a contractual standpoint. He noted it is being reviewed, modified, and cleaned up and he apologized for the very slow process, but that's where it is.

Mr. Rockwell stated that as we go through the fiduciary responsibilities and create the memorandum of agreement understanding, the project should be working kind of hand in hand, but it appears that in the past it's always been the Feds does this and the State does this, in effect two different contracts, two different project managers, two different efforts. He requested, since Motorola was at the meeting to see if there was any way that we can cut the crap and say we want to work together on this kind of stuff and we don't want to have two different project managers that are not talking that we could have someone that can lead this and open up and be transparent with what's going on, not to put you on the spot but it's something that is frustrating to him and he was hoping that maybe to this contract vehicle that you see where we were sharing as we're not one entity, of course we're not one funding source, but we're one system whether you are talking to the State, the Municipality or the DoD.

Mr. Jim Nicholl advised they should certainly address it on their side too, because it seems like there are different projects where they need to ensure that when the DOD is doing something on their side and the State is doing something on their side, it doesn't affect the other person's system. He provided the example, if the DOD is adding three consoles it's not a big deal, but if it's a system wide project, we should address it because it makes perfect sense and we've actually been talking about it internally. Mr. Jim Nicholl stated it still would probably remain two separate contracts between the

Feds and the State because they are two different funding sources, but during the implementation, we need to see if we can do the implementation together and make sure that we're working together and not duplicating efforts and that is what we've been talking about internally so to speak. But it's being kicked around and I think it makes sense, especially where elevating it makes more sense for us too, if we're able to get in lockstep, and funding sources line up between the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Defense and the State of Alaska and it really does line up and the projects can go at the same time. He added they have a really good chance of doing that, but if the State says we need to do this today and the Feds say we need to do that tomorrow, then it gets a little bit difficult. Mr. Jim Nicholl also noted when the Feds have asked us for a map-type pricing, which is a little bit different than what the state has asked for, which is a SUA price, but if they are able to take the components of each that are the same and put those together in a single project, the answer is TBD, but I think we're on the same page.

Mr. Rockwell advised they did not do that for 2021, and it caused us all headaches that we're all aware of and that's not necessarily related to the fiduciary agreement, but it is related to the relationship that comes out of a shared contract approach. He added the State of Alaska is the executor of the contract and is the lead contract agency, so contractually Motorola works for the State and then internally, Motorola has to recognize that a contract executed by the State of Alaska has requirements for the Department of Defense which is a Federal agency and understanding that Motorola is divided into a Federal division and State division, that's an internal Motorola issue primarily that drives this, because from a ALMR program perspective or cooperative perspective, we go at it as a one system approach. Mr. Rockwell stated he understands Motorola is concerned with our dollars not always properly aligning, but we do our best and one of the reasons we're asking for the life-cycle management planning from a financial perspective is that we can be out in front and forecast the cost and then get agencies to do the proper budgeting so that dollars can get aligned. He noted, we all know the dollars from the state come from the legislature and for the Fed agencies they come from U.S. Congress and that those don't always align because our fiscal years are different, so there are some complexities and some compromise on both sides that has to be reached in this case.

Colonel Meerstein agreed that it is certainly not an easy situation as we navigate the different timing and tempo for the flow of funds and thanked Mr. Woodall for leading the way there and working with the agencies to come up with an approach.

e. TDMA versus Non-TDMA Inventory.

Colonel Meerstein reminded the group that at the last meeting he had made a motion to establish a method to inventory TDMA versus non TDMA capable radios and to inform agencies, boroughs, cities, and municipalities moving towards TDMA radios regarding them adding TDMA radios to the network but not necessarily removing their old radios from their inventory. He noted the group had discussed ways in which we could help with strategic messaging to inform users of what their inventories were and the timing for transitioning the non-TDMA capable radios off the network due in part to an approaching

deadline of 2026 and then also the lead time required to buy new radios. Colonel Meerstein noted after an amount of deliberation on how we would do that, the motion was made, and it was agreed that we need to establish that capability. He asked Mr. Fussey what had been done to further that.

Mr. Fussey briefed that he has been doing outreach to each agency and during those conversations he has been finding out what radios they have. He noted there is still some confusion regarding some of the older radios that agencies thought they could upgrade them to TDMA, but obviously the XTS5000s, some of the older Icoms, or Bendix Kings cannot be upgraded to TDMA. Mr. Fussey added that as he goes through the outreach, he directs agencies to the website and shows them the radios that are TDMA capable they can order and also letting them know they cut-off time is December 31, 2026, for non-TDMA capable radios and where some of the grants are. He stated the System Manager Office has been looking at different ways to create an inventory and would be able to talk a little bit on that.

Mr. Nik Fahnestock advised he had an Excel® spreadsheet that can break out the radios that are in the system right now between APX, XTS, XTL, different radio types by agency and with that he can tell you at least with certainty that with the APX radios, whether it's currently capable of TDMA, but as far as other type of radios, that's an unknown whether the others can be upgraded or flashed to TDMA capabilities, but the APX and XTS those are definite numbers he has.

Colonel Meerstein asked if the inventory is in a in a format could be useful as Mr. Fussey is engaging the different stakeholders as a means to inform folks what they have in their inventory and help them to move towards TDMA capable radios.

Mr. Fahnestock stated it is lot of raw data, but most users should know what they have as their inventories are done every year, but it could potentially be used and eventually they could flag those that are TDMA capable on that inventory if they could figure out a way to make that happen.

Mr. Fussey stated when he and Nik were looking at his list, for instance, an entity has an APX6000, we know that it's TDMA capable, but the thing that they can't look at is if it currently has TDMA installed so without knowing the exact flash code of every single radio or touching every single radio, there's no way to determine at this moment whether it's actually capable of doing TDMA.

Colonel Meerstein asked for clarification that there's no automated means to be able to tell what firmware versions are loaded on the radios at this time.

Mr. Fussey stated that was correct. He added by looking at the models of the radio, they can tell you if they're TDMA capable, but we don't know if it is flash code upgraded to TDMA. He noted APSCS has been helping a lot of different entities with their flash code upgrades. When he does the outreach, he talked with them about the model they have and asked them if they know when it was ordered and that sort of gives us an idea if there is a flash code or even if it's encrypted. Mr. Fussey also explained some

individuals didn't know that their radios were not encrypted and that was part of the outreach job so we're working that right now, but we're not close to having this closed out.

Colonel Meerstein requested the User Council continue to explore a way to revise the inventory and leverage it the best that it can to help inform users and then what is the best, most efficient way, to update the inventory to outline and delineate TDMA-capable radios versus TDMA-enabled radios if that makes sense. Meaning that we may see that their APX6000 radio but until we affirm that it has the flash code installed, then there's probably a manual update to the spreadsheet required. He emphasized the whole intent of this is to help the stakeholders understand what their inventory is so they can inform their budget offices to execute the purchases really by the end of 2024. Colonel Meerstein asked the User Council to continue to work on this and come up with a solution for the next Executive Council meeting.

Mr Woodall stated he thought it was also important to inform the Executive Council whether or not the date that was put out as the date which ALMR is transitioning to TDMA is a feasible date and really have to know the number of radios that can be there effectively. He stressed if we're less than 50 percent or we only have 25 percent, then it's important to have an edict that you'd be at that level at a certain time because as long as we have FDMA radios talking to a TDMA radio, it's still just talking at the FDMA level. Mr. Woodall briefed, the goal here is to get to TDMA so we may have to move that date, so that we can have a motivation for those people moving forward so that we can hit that goal, and stated the information is needed for the users, but also needed for the Executive Council to clearly understand the ability to reach that goal or whether we need to modify it.

Colonel Meerstein concurred and noted we're about a year and a half out from a red line for stakeholders to make the purchase for those radios and we really need to move post haste to get this information out. He noted, first up should be to inform the purchase from the XTS 5000s to the 6000s and then also to start that conversation to see if the firmware has been updated or not as well.

Colonel Meerstein paused to see if there was any appetite to move the transition over from the end of 2026 or not, but he noted there is sufficient time to inform the stakeholders to make purchases and upgrades, and to their budgets given our current suspense, but we just need to incorporate the current snapshot and strategic messaging to get the collective there over.

Mr. Rockwell advised he did not believe there is an appetite today to move that date and he appreciated what Mr Woodall was saying, but one of the things that we have communicated internally is that we will evaluate the number of FDMA radios at that time and that date is fixed. He did note the date to turn off FDMA access was not fixed, so we don't want to move the date forward in my opinion. Mr. Rockwell briefed there have been productive discussions in the User Council and some don't want to move forward their budget task right now because they have got another year to ask for that funding.

He pointed out in their last discussion that the State is on a different cycle than the Feds, which is on a different fiscal cycle than the Municipality of Anchorage, so his recommendation from the User Council's perspective is to keep the date. Mr. Rockwell stated he appreciated that we need to be proactive and advise departments or divisions that they have a certain number of FDMA radios and a certain number of TDMA radios and they need to replace those FDMA radios. He stated he appreciated the efforts of both Mr. Fussey and Mr. Fahnestock and their offices respectfully and recommended that we keep the date and evaluate whether we actually turn it off or not.

Colonel Meerstein collectively agreed that we're not going to move the date and as discussed in previous Executive Council meetings, we are not going to turn users off of the network, but emphasized that we have to continue with this strategic messaging to inform folks with the inventory even if it doesn't necessarily capture 100 percent of what the status is because of the different makes and models, and then whether it has the that flash upgrade or not. He requested Mr. Fussey continued to use this inventory as an opportunity to inform the users and just foot stomp the need to make the purchases by the beginning of calendar year 2024 to keep us on track with the TDMA transition at the end of calendar year 2026.

f. Alaska Municipal League.

Mr. Fussey briefed he had talked with the AML office in Juneau. They currently have 164 members, and they cover most of the communities except for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). He added the AML does not have monthly meetings, but they do hold weekly internal meetings to discuss any infrastructure concerns members may have and they have a meeting coming up August 9 -11, which is their legislative conference for their members to discuss any issues or needs that they want to bring up to the legislature for the coming fall. Mr. Fussey added that they have a meeting coming up in December, and that's for anybody to sit in on and it will be held at Anchorage and the OMO has added it to the calendar of events on the web site. He added one thing the AML recommend that he do is to sign up for their weekly email at membersupport@akml.org, he had already done that and was starting to get weekly emails regarding AML things that are going on and any grants out there that are coming up. Mr. Fussey stated there was an infrastructure grant that was put on the ALMR web site that somebody might be able to use for radios, but they're active and they do have meetings.

Mr. Woodall asked if the community that is not covered by the AML was previously covered by the AML.

Mr. Fussey stated he did not know, but with our member list, AML is sort of a catch-all for departments, cities, and municipalities.

Mr. Woodall wondered, from the cooperative agreement perspective if FNSB had to be separately listed since AML is no longer the signatory for them, and it is just a technical question pertaining to governance and if it can be ignored or not, but he was just pointing out that if they're no longer covered by AML from our governance perspective,

they would not be covered unless we added them as a signatory to the cooperative. He added if he was remembering this correctly, they have their own entities sign for their membership agreements, the membership agreements are appendixes to the larger cooperative agreement, and so he was concerned from a governance perspective if FNSB was effectively covered.

Ms. Shafer noted that the AML does not sign any membership agreement and the agencies that are municipalities and locals are sponsored by the state.

Mr. Woodall stated he was referring to the cooperative agreement and he would discuss it after the meeting with Mr. Fussey so that we can get it cleared, but I was just bringing that up as a point that we should probably look into to make sure that they are effectively indemnified within the cooperative approach.

5. User Council Update.

Colonel Meerstein requested Mr. Rockwell please update the group on the User Council

Mr. Rockwell responded the only update he currently had was that the SOA all others primary position, which has been vacant for a year, was recently filled by Mr. Scott Nelsen and there are still positions open from the Army and their primary position has been vacant since October 2021, and the JBER primary position which has been vacant since March 2023. He noted all other user discussion items would be covered within New Business.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed that he'd been working with Mr. Bruce Richter and on our web site there is a link for the SAFECOM survey which continues through July 21. He noted Mr. Richter had only received surveys from 13 entities, and agencies are encouraged to do the survey, which only takes about 30 minutes, but provides good feedback for the region.

Mr. Fussey stated Mr. Dan Nelson has been busy and there were quite a few new video vignettes posted to the web site, Trunking Basics, How ALMR is Funded, Using Interoperable Zones, Inventory Maintenance, and Talkgroups. He added there had been quite a few questions on talkgroups and the video entails how to go about filling those out and sharing frequencies. Mr. Fussey briefed that due to the heavy fishing season that's going on, the TDMA Part 2 Town Hall is scheduled for August 30 at 10:00 a.m. He also noted that Mr Nelson is working on the Kenwood interoperability program, like what we have on the web site for Motorola.

Mr. Fussey advised he also had been going and talking to different agencies and groups. He stated he did a presentation on May 4 at the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, another presentation at the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police meeting, attended the FEMA Region 10 RECCWG meeting on June 8, and went to the demonstration by FirstNet yesterday for their Response Operations Group. He stated he will be attending

the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) August 5 – 9 and following that August 9 – 11 would be the Motorola Technical Users Group (MTUG).

Mr. Fussey advised there will be an ATP for the BK9000 portable. He stated the ALMR help desk had been getting different questions and queries from our members, so we worked with the vendor to get that scheduled for August 15th.

Mr. Fussey added the third quarter newsletter was sent out on July 15th.

b. FY24 Cost Share. Mr. Fussey briefed all federal non-DoD cost share allocation notices were distributed on June 14th and all DOD cost share allocation notices were distributed on June 14th, except for the Army.

c. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed Mr Stormo had commented a little bit on what we're doing, but the Smart Connect was installed the week of June 5, was tested, and was shut back off because we're still waiting for federal approval.

Mr. Fussey stated on May 16 the Juniper router upgrades began and they were installed at the master sites for Zone 1 and Zone 2, but we are still waiting on the delivery of more routers for the sites. He briefed TDMA testing was completed June 15 at the Atwood site and there are Motorola reps here working on that, doing upgrades, and some reconfiguration. Mr. Fussey noted that you can plainly see the channels have doubled on that site, and you can also see when an FDMA radio comes that the two channels immediately drop down to one so that's more reason why it's imperative that we get the TDMA radios on the system.

Mr. Rockwell stated that with Smart Connect we've talked a little bit about the issue of FedRamp. but we are talking about life safety issues here because we have some areas, for example north of Nikiski, that the troopers fall out of our coverage in very populated areas and that is one of the first areas that we would like to move forward as we continue this project. He continued that we're not talking about just a new feature function or toy, but we're talking about real life safety issues that we're trying to solve with some of the newer technology and so he just wanted to reinforce what Mr. Fussey was talking about because it's installed, it's tested, and it works, but we turned it off.

d. Calendar of Events. Mr. Fussey noted at the April meeting, Colonel Meerstein had asked for a venue to share the conferences that are coming up or that they be posted to the ALMR website. He noted the OMO created a post on the website for a calendar of events, and anything that's coming up that affects ALMR or communications in the State are being put on there and we're adding hyperlinks as they come in.

e. FY24 Membership Agreements. Mr. Fussey briefed the changes to the FY24 form were approved and distribution to all agencies for signatures was in progress.

f. June System Metrics. Mr. Fussey started with the caveat that the June metrics only show Zone 1 data and do not show Zone 2 or Zone 4 due to a firewall misconfiguration during the Juniper router integration. He advised Mr. Fahnestock's

team, Motorola, and Genesis, are all working on the issue, and it has been resolved for the most part. Mr. Fussey explained the SMO did a sample testing of the metrics for July that showed all three zones, so the issue still remains regarding the June data and they are trying to extrapolate that data because it is in the system, but we just can't access it. He added that he just wanted to preface the metrics brief with that information.

Mr. Fussey stated the calls were at 1.6 million, and the push to talks shown dropped quite a bit down to around 2 million. He noted that the busies were at 1,290 which may seem like a lot, but that's only .0007 percentage of the total calls and overall, it's a very small percentage.

Mr. Fussey advised for the June monthly sites below three nines, it had dropped down to seven, but the higher number last month was due to the fact we're doing a lot of PMIs, a lot of antenna work, and there's also the Motorola teams that are working on the upgrade. He explained the seven towers that were below the three nines threshold were Cooper Mountain (PMI), Diamond Courthouse (upgrading the power distribution and software) Honolulu (replacing brackets and antennas), Hurricane (PMI), Willow Creek (replacing brackets and antennas) and Wolcott (PMI), so there's nothing out of the ordinary that jumps out that concerns him for the sites below three nines.

Mr. Fussey stated Mr. Fahnestock did a phenomenal job, going through, reconfiguring, and finding out what the issue was with the metrics but there was also another issue discovered and once again Mr. Fahnestock did phenomenal work. He noted there was a time stamp issue with a GPS component where the timestamp had reverted to 2003, which also affected some of the data. Mr. Fussey explained that the GPS component has a life span of 19 1/2 years, and this component which tracks all the satellites, reverted from June 2023 to November 2003, which is exactly 19 1/2 years. He advised the SMO team went to the Zone 4 manager and borrowed one of their GPS components, which is a plug and play device and with some reconfiguration it changed back to 2023. Mr. Fussey requested Mr. Fahnestock elaborate a little bit more on what he found with the GPS.

Mr. Fahnestock noted that Mr. Fussey had covered almost everything with the GPS. The Rubidium oscillator was flowing back to 2003 and as funny as it may sound, it is essentially a Y2K bug and this is not just manufacturer specific, it's all GPS units, so once it hits what's called the GPS week count of 10,241,024 weeks rather, which is 19.6 years the GPS rolls back unless the manufacturer has specifically coded against it, then it happens and unfortunately we were affected by that. He added they were working on getting a replacement part, a newer part, and that hopefully the manufacturer has fixed that issue.

Mr. Fussey expanded a bit further to state our GPS oscillator was a series F and the one borrowed from Zone 4 is series H, so the software glitch has been fixed. He reminded everyone it was in the background, so the radio transmissions were not affected. but it was just the data and the data collection that was affected by the 2003 system revert.

7. New Business.

Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse. Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated he wanted to field an issue here that's come to light within the Rabinowitz courthouse in Fairbanks. He noted Mr. Stormo may be familiar with this, and it's a user issue that's been occurring for some time within the courthouse where there are copious amounts of building materials that are used in there, like concrete and steel, that basically render the use of the ALMR radios useless inside.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow added that obviously they have a number of DPS personnel operating inside that courthouse to include troopers and a number of court services officers that provide courtroom security during trials, a limited number of law enforcement for coverage of the exterior of the building, and service officers who would deal with any defendant outburst or use of force that happens in the courthouse and would also be the first on scene to an attempted homicide. He noted, in fact, there had been a homicide on the sidewalk outside of the courthouse about a year and a half ago, so the court services officers need to be able to communicate on the ALMR system with other law enforcement and troopers in the area should a larger scale response be needed.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised that right now that can't happen unless somebody goes out of the building or at least towards the exterior of the building, to the point where they can get radio service to go out or they use boosted cell service, which is not a reliable or realistic means of garnering emergency response to the courthouse.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated there has been an assessment that's been done and there is a proposed fix, but he didn't know if this is something that the Executive Council or maybe another entity could provide to him to evaluate this and determine whether all or a portion of this issue is a maintenance item for ALMR. He briefed that he understood there is some funding out there for maintenance of the system but didn't know if any or all of this issue would be viewed as such. He advised that he understood that there was not somebody that would be part of any of that deliberation but was just looking to fix that problem, because it has been a long-standing issue and is kind of ridiculous that it still exists, so he wants to fix it.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow explained that right now he was looking internally for funding sources and other places for appropriate funding sources just to get this issue fixed as quickly as reasonably possible through the permit process and getting the actual work accomplished and any questions anybody had, he would either be able to answer them now or do some research and get feedback to the council.

Mr. Tim Woodall asked how the cell service was withing the building.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised in his experience it was horrible or nonexistent. He added there was equipment installed in the building and his level of knowledge was that, in terms of the technical aspect, there was boosted equipment put inside the building to boost the signal of cell service which worked for a period of time, but as the

phone technology continued to upgrade that became less and less effective and it is essentially wall art at this point. Deputy Commissioner Barlow briefed from what he understands, in order to get reliable cell service inside the building, there would need to be an upgrade or replacement of that equipment, as well, so communications of any type out of the building to other law enforcement in the Fairbanks area is difficult at best. If you've got a quote on putting in a bidirectional amplifier.

Mr Tim Woodall asked if he had gotten a quote to put in a bidirectional amplifier.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow briefed he had the amount which was right at \$328,330 and \$30,000 to complete the work.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated then from his understanding, with the experts involved, that would provide them with ALMR coverage inside the building.

Mr. Tim Woodall advised that was correct and asked how big the building was.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted it was just shy of 120,000 square feet and he thought it was a five or six story building and contained offices, jail cells, a dispatch center in the in the basement of the building, and numerous courthouses, so it's important.

Mr. Fussey briefed at the Bonney courthouse years ago it was the same issue, and it was discovered that the antenna was wrapped to keep the signal from going out and at some point, Mr. Stormo's team discovered that and removed that wrapping and it improved. He added that Lieutenant French would be able to give better feedback on that one, but that was one of the issues where their portables weren't really working down in the basement of the Bonney courthouse and after that was discovered that was taken out, and it picked up.

Mr. Woodall noted that back in 2006, Senator Stevens gave money to put a BDA in the airport, in the courthouses, and in the tunnel that goes over to Whittier. He advised the group that everyone at that time, from a state and local perspective, was to identify their need for BDA and the ALMR office probably knows where it was or what happened to it. Mr. Woodall added there were as-builts for the VA, and it would have said what buildings the BDA was installed in and it would have had diagrams of that so if we could somehow locate that we would know and maybe the equipment is turned off or something's occurred, but he suspected the courthouse probably has been a nightmare but, he stated, he thought someone would have identified that back when that money was available. He briefed now the equipment is several years old, and it may or may not have been touched from a PMI perspective, so that's another thing to look at. Mr. Woodall stated that he suspects the one in the airport is not in service either and it would be one of the older original ones, but if the cell boosters need to go down there, AT&T FirstNet could put that in at no cost to us.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow briefed that he was informed when he was up there several weeks ago about the cell service issue and that's something that needed to be

talked about with that vendor and their desire to do that. This is a separate issue from what reliable instant communications are needed for emergencies or other scenarios. He stated Mr. Stormo sent technicians up there to look at it, but he had not heard if there was anything there, but it has always been a problem and it's one of those ridiculous things that we say we're going to fix this, and then life takes over and pulls us away, and now this is a huge problem we need to fix. Deputy Commissioner Barlow emphasized this is going to be a disaster if we have a large-scale issue inside the courthouse and we've known about this for a decade now and although it was not an issue for anybody in there, he was just telling them the history of it.

Mr. Woodall stated if he recalled, in 2012 when they were addressing the Anchorage Courthouse, he wasn't sure if Senator Stevens did some of the State buildings or if it was just the military installations and then required the State to do their own buildings. He requested Mr. Fussey reach out to Mr. Del Smith for any media on that and ask if he would do that and find the as-builts.

Mr. Joe Piska asked if they needed the entire 120,000 square feet of the building covered.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated every courthouse, every corridor, every office, basement jail, and holding cells; all areas of the building ought to have reliable coverage. He added in all seriousness, he appreciated the ears and the great questions and whatnot, so we can get towards a fix, and if the determination is made that this is not a maintenance issue in any way, so be it, but he is just trying to figure out how to fund this and figure out the full scope of the work and figure out a plan for getting this implemented.

Mr. David Reed asked if there was Wi-Fi throughout that building and Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated he believed so. Mr. David Reed briefed he asked because the FedRamp project we're working on and we're waiting to get done will allow the use of radios over Wi-Fi and cell phones.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow mentioned that during the last meeting, they had also talked about Nikiski and the test sites and Fairbanks where they talked about boosted cell service and the boosters aren't any good but if they fixed the boosted cell service and maybe that's yet another site that could use this technology, which, you know, maybe it could, but is that appropriate for fixing it. Mr. Rockwell stated he appreciated him for bringing it up, but one aspect that we'd have to do or look at is the real-life scenarios where you have someone that has an ALMR radio, and maybe they do have an 8000 that they can use through Wi-Fi, but then they call Fairbanks PD and Fairbanks PD comes in and they've got a 6000 without Wi-Fi capabilities and they still need to communicate.

Mr. Rockwell noted the other thing is whether the discussion they are having now had been brought up in the ALMR User Council meeting to get an endorsement of this is a viable project, there was nobody that said it wasn't a viable project and I need to fix it.

Mr. Rockwell advised the only thing that came up really is that whatever we do to the infrastructure, whether it's on the ALMR side or even on the cell side, we need to make sure that we coordinate through Fairbanks Fire and life safety.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted he appreciated the discussion and said he would leave it at that until maybe some research is done, and we find those as-builts to determine whether or not we need the BDA installation at all. Maybe that drives everything forward from there or to help him determine how to move forward. Mr. Rockwell said it could be one solution is not enough and we utilize the Fairbanks Courthouse as a perfect test case. He added this is where we might need that FirstNet come in for Band 14 and after the FedRamp comes in with the Wi-Fi solution on radios and BDAs at any location that can have multiple agencies responding to it is always better to have a lot of coverage.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow stated if a FirstNet radio or the Wi-Fi lets them talk inside a trooper post, that's probably good enough for that location, because there's not likely to be another other agency showing up in an emergency. He advised this brings up a good point as this is a State courthouse and if you have state, local, and federal agencies in a law enforcement capacity whether for daily work or during an emergency response capacity. Deputy Commission Barlow briefed he would take it as homework for a couple people and would follow up with Mr. Fussey and Mr. Rockwell outside of this environment.

Mr. Joe Piksa asked Deputy Commission Barlow if he had a scope for that work for the 4307K and Deputy Commissioner Barlow responded that it was written up and he had a copy.

Mr. Jim Nicholl asked if there were any state regulations that require buildings to have that BDA and that he knew in other states there are regulations that require them.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow responded that some of the boroughs have created regulations and one example was when Walmart was built out in MatSu, it was required for them to put a BDA in and the same thing with Target who also had to reinforce the building, because it was already built before the law went into place.

Colonel Meerstein thanked Deputy Commissioner Barlow for bringing this issue up and asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the topic. Hearing no responses, he asked if there were any other new business items anyone wished to bring up at this time and there was no response.

8. Next Meeting. Colonel Meerstein advised the next meeting is scheduled for October 19. at 1:30p.m. in the Alaska Public Safety Communication Services conference room. He requested the council members please email Miss Shafer if they had a calendar conflict with this date.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Colonel Meerstein asked if there was any other business and hearing no response, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the July 20 meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.

The motion was made by Deputy Commissioner Barlow and seconded by Chief Michael Kerle. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Timothy Meerstein, Colonel, USAF
ALCOM J6
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy “Steiner” Meerstein
AFEA, Mr. Christopher Jensen
MOA, Chief Michael Kerle
AML, Assistant Chief Alex Boyd
SOA DPS, Mr. Scott Stormo
OMO, Mr. Paul Fussey
ALCOM/J64, Mr. Timothy Woodall
MOA, Mr. Trygve Erickson
SOA DPS, Mr. John Rockwell