



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



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMR Executive Council

April XX, 2024

FROM: SOA Co-Chair

SUBJECT: January 18 Meeting Minutes

TO: See Distribution

Executive Council Members:

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety
Chief Michael Kerle	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)
Assistant Chief Alex Boyd	Alaska Municipal League – Anchorage Fire Department (via teleconference)

ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:

Ms. Penny Bortman	Operations Management Office
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage
Mr. Nikalus Fahnstock	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Mickey Flores	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Lt Col Herbert Gladwill	ALCOM/Deputy J6
Mr. Zach Haas	Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. Mark Neuman	Municipality of Anchorage
Mr. Jim Nicholl	Motorola Solutions
Ms. Maymie Noble	Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)
Mr. Joe Piksa	Motorola Solutions (via teleconference)
Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies (via teleconference)
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. Tim Thometz	Icom America (via teleconference)
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Ms. Sherry Shafer	Operations Management Office (via teleconference)

1. Call to Order. Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow, State of Alaska (SOA) 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. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there were any announcements and there were none.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked the members if there were any discussion items, comments, or questions regarding the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. None were offered and he requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.

Motion: Approve the October 19, 2023, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion was made by Assistant Chief Alex Boyd and seconded by Lt Col Herbert Gladwill. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

4. Old Business.

a. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted this item was still tabled and asked if it was something that they still wanted to comment on or talk about.

Mr. John Rockwell advised there were no comments on it right now, but the new legislative session just started, and they will see how this year goes and whether they can pull it off in the very near future or make another run of it.

b. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Barlow presented the subject and Mr. Rockwell advised that there were no updates for the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted that if somebody has questions or comments on anything to go ahead and just speak up.

c. Fiduciary Responsibilities. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Timothy Woodall for an update.

Mr. Woodall noted they are still working this and that one of the milestones is the Life Cycle Management Plan that Motorola will be briefing under New Business Today, so that will help us move along.

d. TDMA versus Non-TDMA Inventory. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Paul Fussey for an update on this item.

Mr. Fussey briefed at the end of the year he had sent out emails to all of the members regarding what radios they have, and which are FDMA and TDMA according to the serial numbers. He also thanked Mr. Nik Fahnstock for putting that spreadsheet together. Mr. Fussey stated ALMR received an upgrade of the Genesis program and that they can now see when radios are transmitting in FDMA or TDMA, which is really good. He added that if anybody had not seen the January newsletter, at the end of the year, there were 9,729 TDMA radios and 16,081 non-TDMA radios on the system, so they are making progress.

DC Barlow asked if everybody was well aware of the deadlines associated with the change.

Mr. Fussey responded that they were and that also in the email that he sent out, he attached a Subscriber Request Form so agencies can send it in to Nik's office and the Help Desk to have their old radios removed. He noted he had received several follow up emails from individuals asking about the radios which are approved, and he attached the approved list to the e-mail that went out to every member, so they know what they can buy.

Mr. Rockwell stated that the only additional comments he would offer are that in the User Council meetings, they have been talking a lot about TDMA versus FDMA and have been reminding everybody that when they do upgrade a radio, that doesn't mean they just keep their old radio but that they need to have those radios removed from the system and it is a very simple process to notify the Help Desk if they do not know what else to do. Mr. Rockwell emphasized that it is imperative that we not only encourage agencies to upgrade the radios, but also remove the old radios because when we go live on January 1, 2027, we are still not including FDMA radios. He advised that as we move forward, they will be encouraging them not to keep those old radios on the system. Mr. Rockwell briefed there has been a lot of talk about budgets for new radios and people are working through the budgetary issues associated with larger expenditures. He discussed the example of DOT, who had put in a large sum of money this year, but when the governor's budget finally came out, it was not in there and they are scrambling to see what they can do, whether that is in a supplemental budget or what have you, but it is always exciting.

e. Alaska Municipal League. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Paul Fussey if there was anything to add to that.

Mr. Fussey briefed he had been working with the Alaska Municipal League (AML) and sitting through a lot of their meetings, making inroads with the contacts and that on November 21 he had advised Colonel Timothy Meerstein and Mr. Woodall that the Fairbanks North Star Borough had rejoined the AML. Pending any further questions, Mr. Fussey requested this item be closed and Deputy Commissioner Barlow concurred.
(CLOSED)

f. Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there were any updates on this.

Mr. Rockwell stated that DPS has continued on the engineering work and there were some issues with funding in the beginning, but he had asked APSCS to utilize some of the current RSA monies since they often have RSA monies leftover and to get that project started. He noted he did not have an update at this point on where they were with that, but he believed the equipment had been ordered and he asked Mr. Scott Stormo if he had any additional information on the BDA.

Mr. Stormo noted that was not his understanding and that there was not any funding for it, and he was not aware that they had been taking any further action on it.

Mr. Rockwell added he would have to follow up on that because he had given the APSCS staff the go ahead to get the engineering work done through the RSA funding.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow requested they follow up on that and if they are beyond the engineering. He briefed he did not know what the RSA funding source can sustain and how applicable it is for equipment purchase but he has been looking at different funding sources since he brought the topic to bear a few meetings ago with a fair amount of ignorance in terms of a potential funding sources regarding maintenance monies and whether or not that could be utilized as a whole or a partial funding source for this effort here.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow noted he had missed a meeting and did not know if it was decided that it was not an appropriate funding source for that, and part of his discussion today was going to be to ask that question again. He stated if it was not appropriate, he was looking at other funding sources and he and John could talk, offline and determine how far this money John was talking about is going to go and where additional funding could be identified that can help bridge any gap in funding.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow briefed that he understood the RSA money was to continue the engineering process and order the equipment and they are just waiting for the additional funding. He pointed out that DPS has actually come on board working with the Department Statewide Admin Services director on the appropriateness of a funding source although he may have misworded an email asking whether or not it was appropriate funding source so he would have to have a follow-up conversation to say he is using this to purchase some things and wait and see what the feedback is so that they can move forward sooner than later.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised he did not think they were going to have to wait through a legislative process to obtain further funds to get it because it is a bit of a primary issue that the troopers and court service staff and other emergency folks cannot talk on ALMR inside of the courthouse in Fairbanks and that should be seen as a primary issue.

g. Motorola Contract. Deputy Commissioner asked for an update on this.

Mr. Woodall stated there had been some turnover in procurement, so they had put this on hold for the moment and were not concerned about the timing yet. He noted they needed to reengage with procurement and get together to talk with them about the strategy to go forward. Mr. Woodall explained that their procurement processes typically moves pretty quick, so he would need to be ready to go, although the last time took a long time, but those folks have a busy shop, but just in general, the contract will have to be renewed in 2026.

Mr. Woodall briefed he and Scott have had discussions with validating requirements, expanding coverage, and identifying areas off of the past contract where they have run into issues and are getting those together and will address those and see how that all comes out. He stated the important thing is to get the contract officer on board and find out the procedure they want to follow up. Mr. Woodall advised the last time they did the contract it was under an Arizona State University Pilot program, which Scott confirmed, and it was a different process they undertook, but they do not know if it is going to be the same procurement process this time or not and when it is new and unusual, it takes time to work through.

h. Tudor Road Electrical Work. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked about this item.

Mr. Scott Stormo stated this has basically been put on hold for the moment. He noted they ran into the hiccup where they were going to have to kill power to the whole building for a while and the electricians did not have the information on what was entirely going to need to be done on their side.

Mr. Stormo advised what they have been doing since. He noted the UPS system that is back in the zone controller has been functioning fine, but it has batteries that are about eight years old, and they have a three-year battery life cycle, so they are way past what they should be. Mr. Stormo added that something they have looked at and he thought he had mentioned before, is they have had two or three different vendors come in and give them ideas on what needs to happen, and every one of them had an absolutely polar opposite idea on what had to happen, so they have been working with Motorola and what options under the \$24 million contract exist to have them redesign a power system for us. He briefed the intent is to check that design and go out to get that or use an NASPO contract to get that upgraded to make sure that is all new and fresh before they would take a chance of having any power turned off to the building. Mr. Stormo added that he did not think they had a chance of anything coming back up until spring or summer.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow surmised that the power is not going to be available to the building for an extended period of time and the electricians could not tell us how long.

Mr. Stormo responded that it was an upgrade to other stuff they are dealing with at the building, so it is only impacting the intent to move forward on those fixes. He further explained they have been trying to get power out to the backyard to the shelters that they use to train and troubleshoot in and also put up a security camera out there on a pole to watch the area, so it has been an issue that they have not had power out there.

Mr. Stormo stated they have never had power out there, but they were making headway to get power out there and as they got deeper into it, they started planning out these other things. He advised they had to change the plans for the building they started off with and it was an easy thing to do, but things have gotten far more difficult as they progressed along, so it is not hurting anything by waiting at the moment and they will wait until they are confident that they can do it. Mr. Stormo reminded everyone that Colonel Meerstein had mentioned at the last meeting that anytime you do big things with power, that no matter how confident you are, something is going to go wrong. He stated that is the constant right now and they can plan and anticipate what they can and be ready, but things can happen that they did not see coming.

Mr. Woodall stated that ALCOM's offer continues to stand and they have a couple 35kW generators that they could bring down for support, if needed.

Mr. Stormo advised he could not say when they will decide to go forward because they have not got that deep in it and the electricians that were here in the building could not say how long it has to be off and that was not something that they could commit to how long they have to go so, he does not want to get too far off, but talked about the emergency battery power back up and batteries being well beyond life expectancy.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if that was something they were working on or if that was an outdated system.

Mr. Stormo responded that was what they were working with Motorola engineering on to get them a new modern solution, but unfortunately, that was a new modern solution about six to seven years ago and one of the points they were making in discussions concerning the new contract is trying to get those backup battery systems into the PMI maintenance and replacement part of the contract because DOD has the same type of battery plants and there is no contract to support them. He added, now when the plants are going out, you have to go through the process and it is not responsive enough, so it is something they need to get covered under the contract with a good response time.

Mr. Woodall added that as of right now they can just go and replace batteries in most of their power plants, but at the same time, there is newer technology, newer batteries, newer controls and that is why you always want to look at that if you are going to have to swap things out. He noted that they need to bite the bullet and upgrade it to newer technology and that is one thing that he appreciated that Scott and his staff are looking at this.

Mr. Stormo briefed it is not like a shelter that we have to go up and pop out the batteries, but this is one that we rely on as far as the whole system in this area. It has equipment that they cannot service because there is high voltage electrical stuff so they have got to get the contractor to come in and get it and as everyone might remember, the municipality had a contractor working and had a bunch of stuff repaired in their master site due to the power surge that happened during that process, so even the professionals can have things go wrong on them.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked what would be the lifespan if the batteries were running at 100 percent and Mr. Stormo replied the newer one went up to engineering and Motorola is designing it to do at least eight hours and that is going to still be two big battery plants.

5. User Council Update.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked Mr. Rockwell to provide an update on the User Council.

Mr. Rockwell advised one of the biggest topics that they have been discussing in the User Council is the TDMA upgrades of the radios, along with some of the little things like Talkgroup Sharing Agreements. He noted, as far as the makeup of the council is concerned, they are down two representatives as Mr. Chris Martin retired and also the Southeast representative retired. He added he did not know if they had received the letter yet from Eielson, so that that was pending and also, they were still waiting for someone to volunteer for the southeast.

6. Operations Management Office.

a. Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson had been very busy and there were two new training video vignettes posted on the website in November, "The ALMR System Upgrade - How Will It Affect Me?" and also "Contingency Planning for ALMR Members," and there was also a new video called "Advanced Radio Features" which was posted in December. He added just last week the "Emergency Button Usage" video was posted out on the web site as we have been receiving a lot of questions from individuals regarding the emergency button program and how to set it up and actually go through and set up a Memorandum of Agreement with the dispatch centers and that was why they created the latest video.

Mr. Fussey stated, as previously discussed under Old Business, the emails for TDMA and FDMA went out to all user members.

Mr. Fussey briefed that Motorola did a presentation to the User Council on December 6 regarding protecting public safety dispatch centers from cyberattacks. He advised they also talked about the new criminal justice information system (CJIS) requirements for dispatch centers, the ASTRO dispatch console, and CAD systems. Mr. Fussey stated before the UC meeting began, he worked with Mr. Joe Piksa, Motorola Solutions, to set up the presentation. He noted he had invited all the dispatch centers to the User Council meeting to listen in, since it was really good information, especially the new CJIS requirements.

Mr. Fussey advised the council he had attended a joint meeting at the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center with Civil Air Patrol to look at options to their MotoBridge, which is no longer supported. He noted they were looking at new equipment, but they are still using their MotoBridges to talk to their helicopters here and also up at Eielson. Mr. Fussey stated it was a really good meeting with them being proactive, and he, Mr.

Fahnestock and Mr. Nathan Skinner from APSCS attended to help them out with looking for what they can do to replace their MotoBridge.

Mr. Fussey briefed that ALMR was also approached by NOAA Weather regarding what we can do for them and how we could help them with their radios. He added he, Mr. Nathan Skinner from APSCS and Mr. Scott Nelsen from the SEOC met with them at their headquarters and will be assisting them.

Mr. Fussey stated in November 2023, he traveled to Fairbanks and conducted an inspection of the Zone 2 master site and also an offsite storage inspection, which is required to be accomplished once a year. He added that he performs it monthly for Zone 1 and will now be doing it quarterly for Zone 2 to ensure that the offsite storage and backup is being done properly. While he was up there, Mr. Fussey briefed that he had also stopped in and visited with the DPS Fairbanks Dispatch supervisor, Ms. Erica Bishop, to check in on some of the issues they have been having with their recorders up there and he also met with Captain Spitzer and Lt. Rogers to talk about the radio systems.

Mr. Woodall asked if the power plant issue had been fixed or was it still only on the B side.

Mr. Fussey responded that he had been told by Mr. Perry it had been fixed and previously there had still been extension cords running everywhere. He added when he went up there and inspected the building, he took multiple pictures of it and would send those to Mr. Stormo, but the building looked good.

Mr. Woodall surmised that the Department of Public Works had corrected the issue because it was a safety hazard.

b. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that TDMA was not turned on in 2023 due to the installation of the Juniper routers not being completed, but they will be working on that in the springtime. He added that with the latest check, the federal approval was not received, and it was delaying Smart Connect and Location on push to talk and what we are being told is that it is still being worked on, but as of today we do not have Federal approval.

c. FY24 Membership Agreements. Mr. Fussey noted the final FY24 membership agreement from the FBI was received on November 30, and the OMO had ended up working with some of their folks from California in order to get that signed off. He advised the council that the FBI no longer wanted to represent the AFEA, and the AFEA, would be holding their quarterly meeting on February 1 and had invited him to sit in and they were going to be discussing electing a new representative for the Executive Council.

Mr. Woodall asked, going back to the MotoBridge, if the State still had an active server functioning down here or in Fairbanks.

Mr. Fussey responded that the Tudor master site has the AKRCC Operations Management Console (OMC) on it and is connected to this server.

Mr. Woodall added, for general confirmation, that the Cooperative and Mutual Aid Agreement was on the general's desk for signature, and he should be getting that back to the OMO hopefully by the end of this week so they could continue to process it for signature.

c. System Metrics. Mr. Fussey briefed for December there were 1,478,785 calls, the push to talks were 2,393,082, and monthly busies were 484, but if you take a look at the percentage of .0003, the number of busies is very, very small. He stated the subscriber count was 25,810 and the sites below three nines were at seven with the affected sites being Bailey Hill, Beaver Creek, Girdwood, Tahnetta Pass, Pillar Mountain, Tok, and Womens Bay. Mr. Fussey explained some of these were due to PMIs from Nik's team going out and doing their maintenance as always, but with Girdwood, we had a huge storm come through and the site was having a lot of power issues but that has been rectified.

Mr. Stormo added that they have installed a temporary power line, but there is more to be done to make that permanent.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow gave kudos to Mr. Stormo and his team for the Girdwood response and stated they did an amazing job in a tight time frame with a lot of hurdles that they had to jump through. He added that he knows that this is temporary right now with the power line above ground. When it melts, they don't know what they are going to have to do with it, whether it is to bury it bit, but they have Mr. James Rowe working on any permits that they might have to have in the future to go and bury it. Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised Mr. Stormo he was still looking for the exact location so they can make sure that Mr. Rowe is talking with the right owners of the property.

e. Other. Mr. Fussey stated that on December 6 and 7, he and Mr. Fahnestock and Mr. Newman from AWARN, had come in earlier with the SMO team and they conducted the quarterly zone control rollover to install security patch updates.

Mr. Fussey briefed December 11 - 15, the ALMR office received another Genesis system upgrade and as he had mentioned before, this upgrade will now allow them to identify TDMA radios and also see how many radios are affiliated with the towers which helps us look at whether there is a possibility of that tower being overloaded on the system so the upgrade will be very beneficial for us.

Mr. Fussey advised that the quarterly newsletter was mailed out and posted on the website on January 15, and for those not familiar, the OMO sends out a digital copy, but they also print out the hard copy and he mails one to each individual legislator down in Juneau and also to our Federal representatives in Washington DC.

Mr. Fussey noted there was a new AFEA President elected, Miss Jocelyn Fenton, and she is being very proactive. He stated she signed all the outstanding Federal Non-DoD

membership agreements that were pending, the EC Charter, and the Cooperative and Mutual Aid Agreements that we were struggling to get signed off on.

Mr. Fussey announced that unfortunately, this is Sherry's last EC meeting, and her replacement was sitting next to me, Ms. Penny Bortman, who started on January 15. He stated Sherry is retiring and she will be sorely missed.

Deputy Commissioner Barlow added that he could not stress enough how wonderful Sherry was to work with and that she had been a lot of help to him getting his boots on the ground.

Mr. Fussey briefed that there were three annual reports that would go to the Executive Council after the User Council approves them and they are the 2023 business case, the OMO 2023 annual Information Assurance Audit Report of Finding, and the User Council 2023 Annual Assessment on System Operations and Management Performance and then we can close those out.

Lastly, Mr. Fussey provided another friendly reminder that the monthly Motopatch was completed in January and asked that everyone please reboot all their window clients if they had not already done so. He stated that ALMR does get a report through Motopatch which indicates if an agency has not restarted or reset their Window's Client and if they do not do it, they will not have the new security patch, so please do so as it is imperative for our system.

7. New Business.

Motorola Solutions provided a presentation on the ALMR 10-year Operations and Maintenance Life Cycle Cost outlook for the State of Alaska and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Zach Haas, Motorola Solutions, briefed the group that the DOD had been working with him, and Mr. Joe Piksa had been working on the state side to create a lifecycle management plan. He provided the numbers that Motorola was able to project out for that lifecycle management plan and what this is going to do is provide a couple different benefits for the customer at ALMR and the best way to kind of show that was to look at the 2025 cost projections. Whenever you do those upgrades every three to five years, it takes a significant amount of labor and cost per upgrade.

Mr. Haas pointed out that post 2025 on the model projected, Motorola was able to spread that cost out over multiple years with the newer SUA model added to the maintenance model and that as Mr. Woodall had already alluded to, that does save 15 percent annually as you project that out and it also provides, especially on the DOD side, the ability to better rely on compliancy and to keep that up to date because they have stricter guidelines regarding how Motorola protects and secures the data. Mr. Haas noted that mapping that out and having that SUA involved, as well the software upgrade agreement, allows for those compliances to be maintained yearly rather than at each given upgrade which benefits the DOD guidelines and helps to have

a safer network for the DOD side. He stated this model will help in actually mapping out and planning for costs and to go towards a fiduciary agreement and be able to plan out cost modeling because when you have a large upgrade it can be difficult every three to five years to come up with all the money. Mr. Haas concluded by advising the idea of this SUA is to alleviate that and give ALMR a more refined cost model for that ten-year lifecycle.

The floor was opened at the conclusion for discussion between the council, Motorola, and State and ALMR staff.

8. Next Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Barlow advised the next meeting is scheduled for April 18.

9. Adjourn Meeting. Deputy Commissioner Barlow asked if there was any other business and hearing no responses, he requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Adjourn the January 18 meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.

The motion was made by Lt Col Gladwill and seconded by Assistant Chief Boyd. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow
Department of Public Safety
ALMR Executive Council

Distribution:

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Timothy "Steiner" Meerstein
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