



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



**MEMORANDUM for ALMR Executive Council**

**November 19, 2024**

**FROM: SOA Co-Chair**

**SUBJECT: November 7 Meeting Minutes**

**TO: See Distribution**

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**Executive Council Members:**

Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan	State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety (via teleconference)
Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis	Department of Defense – ALCOM/J6 (via teleconference)
Bradley Wayland	Assistant Federal Security Director- Mission Support TSA (via teleconference)
Captain Gina Burington	Municipality of Anchorage – Anchorage Police Department (via teleconference)

**ALMR Support Team Members and Guests:**

Ms. Mary Burnham	Operations Management Office
Mr. John Rockwell	User Council Chair
Mr. Paul Fussey	ALMR Operations Manager
Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock	ALMR System Manager
Mr. Scott Stormo	Alaska Public Safety Communication Services
Mr. David Reed	Information Systems Security Manager
Mr. Timothy Woodall	ALCOM PM/COR
Mr. Pete Rogell	BK Technologies
Mr. Rob Ragadio	Motorola Solutions
Mr. Trygve Erickson	Municipality of Anchorage
Mr. Zachary Haas	Motorola Solutions
Ms. Christine O'Connor	Alaska Telecom Association

**1. Call to Order.** Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan, State of Alaska (SOA) Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. The roll was read, and a quorum of Executive Council members were present.

**2. Opening Statements and Other Announcements.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any opening statements or other announcements, and there were none.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked the members if there were any discussion items, comments, or questions regarding the minutes from the April 18, 2024, meeting. None were offered and he requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written.

**Motion: Approve the April 18, 2024, Executive Council meeting minutes, as presented.**

The motion was made by Deputy Commissioner Morgan and seconded by Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

#### **4. Old Business.**

a. State Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB). **(TABLED)** Deputy Commissioner Morgan presented the subject, and stated that he does not know of any movement on the SIGB, but he will say that the State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Public Safety (DPS) does not know what the governor's budget is going to be coming out or what the major policies are going to be with this session, so SOA DPS will not have any optics into that until mid-December. Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that is the information he has on the SIGB, but he would defer to Mr. John Rockwell if there is anything else.

Mr. Rockwell noted that is very accurately stated, and currently there is no motion on the SIGB itself politically. He stated that one thing he announced in a previous meeting is that the SOA DPS has a new 911 coordinator, his name is Mr. Donald Lane, and Mr. Lane has been reaching out to other states to see how they are working through interoperable communication and governance. Mr. Rockwell commented that Mr. Lane is preparing another document that should be out in the next few months, that will give SOA DPS some ideas to pursue whether it is the SIGB or there are different ways that it could be done, all-encompassing the structure that the SOA DPS currently enjoys with the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Executive and User Council, but no updates at this point.

Ms. Christine O'Connor commented that it is great news about the 911 coordinator, and she asked Mr. Rockwell if he could send her some contact information so she could connect with him. Ms. O'Connor stated there has been a lot of thinking about 911 lately, so great news to have someone in that space, and then as far as a potential new SIGB, she missed the April meeting, but if SOA DPS is thinking of how that might be

constituted, she would love to connect with SOA DPS on who the membership might be and what that might look like going forward.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan commented that is a good point, Ms. O'Connor, and that they have some ideas based on the old dispatcher 911, whatever they are, but there were some good concepts of what the SIGB could be and he thinks really looking at how this 911 issue was approached last time. Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that is the construct everybody looks at and SOA DPS has to have strong representation from the industry, and he does not know that there is a lot. He stated that in all the times SOA DPS has had discussions about the SIGB, he thinks everybody is in line with what it needs to look like, it is just the sort of executive sponsorship to make it happen and give it the teeth that it would need to regulate not just these issues, but even going off into 911 and things, so that is a good point.

Ms. O'Connor commented that hopefully there is some comprehensive planning down the road.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan thanked Ms. O'Connor.

b. Long-term Cost Share Solution. Deputy Commissioner Morgan presented the subject and noted that he and Mr. Paul Fussey have talked a little bit about this in terms of what may look like, and he does not know if this is the time to talk about this, but he and Mr. Fussey have talked about how the Federal Non-DoD partners are being charged. He was not sure if this is the time to discuss a per radio charge or should a user group flesh it out before it goes to this level.

Mr. Fussey noted that he and Deputy Commissioner Morgan talked a little bit about it, but he thinks it is a separate issue. Mr. Fussey referred to Mr. Rockwell.

Mr. Rockwell noted that SOA DPS has been looking at the actual cost of ownership as well as what it would take if the SOA DPS were to charge utilizing different cost models, so for example, the group is looking at how the SOA DPS is working with the DoD and if the SOA DPS used that cost model, what would that look like for other state agencies, and what would it look like if the SOA DPS were able to encompass all of the buying power that the SOA DPS has through state agencies and get discounts. Mr. Rockwell stated that he does not think the SOA DPS, is ready to actually have a detailed discussion of that, but it is appropriate to mention that the SOA DPS is looking aggressively at how they can continue to support the ALMR system and the cost of moving forward. Mr. Rockwell commented that, as everyone knows, things are getting harder to buy, prices are going up, and budgets are going down, so right now the SOA DPS is looking at the future and what it is going to look like in five to 10 years down the line, and so he has worked a little bit with Mr. Fussey and Mr. Nikalus Fahnstock on some different numbers as far as how many users ALMR has and what would that look like per user, per device, and other things like that, so at this point the information is still being gathered. Mr. Rockwell thanked the Chair for bringing it up as a kind of informational topic, but nothing to act upon at this point.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan inquired whether the Executive Council wants to put an updated timeline on it like maybe by the next Executive Council meeting, and he thinks the council would probably want to flesh it out more and talk to the User Council.

Mr. Fussey stated that it can be put on the docket for the next Executive Council meeting, and he will meet with Mr. Rockwell, Mr. Scott Stormo, and Mr. Fahnestock and they will go over some more numbers. He noted that they might be able to have some preliminary information for the next Executive Council meeting, but nothing is finalized.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that maybe for just a discussion point, so everybody's always operating from the same page, and he does not want to get in a situation where one of the member agencies has one view and somebody else does not, but just for transparency, maybe put something on for the next meeting and specifically look at what the Federal Non-DoD cost structure is versus, for example, a per radio, active charge, or a per radio non-active charge, and how those numbers, and again not to just put a whole bunch of work onto the staff there, give that contrast or just give sort of a primer on what are the other ways to look at it that are not as intensive as the Federal Non-DoD algorithm. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if the council is good with that.

Mr. Fussey noted that he has sort of a direction to go in on this request for the next Executive Council meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan requested to have an ability to discuss it in more detail and maybe make that a broader and one of the more in-depth topics the council deals with at the next meeting. He stated that he just wants to make sure the council is having those discussions in the open and that everybody is aware of what the council is talking about, so the council will look at that next time.

c. Intergovernmental Support Agreement (formerly Fiduciary Responsibility Documentation). Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Tim Woodall for an update.

Mr. Woodall briefed that at the last meeting, which was not an official meeting, the DoD was recommending that the subject title be changed from Fiduciary Responsibilities to Intergovernmental Support Agreement, and so he would offer that someone make that motion. Mr. Woodall noted that the reason for that is as the DoD moves forward on the implementation and execution of Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA), the controlling agencies at the Secretary of Defense level will have asked to see all the Executive Council's minutes with regard to that subject, so instead of having to wave through future discussions by looking at Fiduciary Responsibility Documentation, they would look at where the subject IGSA is at. Mr. Woodall commented that he recommends that somebody during this meeting make a motion to change that topic title if possible, or if a motion is not needed, then his recommendation is that the council change the subject matter to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement. Mr. Woodall noted that this ties into Section B under Old Business - Long Term Cost Share Solution, in that 10 U.S. Code 2679 – Installation Support Services (10USC 2679) is Congress' direction to federal government agencies that they can enjoin with state and local

government agencies to share services, and in this case, the SOA is a provider of land mobile radio (LMR) services, and so this IGSA would include all federal agencies that fall under the federal member agencies that are identified as having signed a membership agreement and are operating on the system, would then fall under the IGSA, whereby the state will define the services that it is providing to those entities. Mr. Woodall continued to brief that the IGSA serves in the form of a contract per se, and it can serve the same purpose, because it authorizes the state to contract for services, and or perform services itself on behalf of the other government agencies that are participating, in this case, in ALMR as a member agency and using that infrastructure. The cost share solution that the council is talking about for the fee structure would need to be included in this agreement, so these two items are going to quickly marry together. Mr. Woodall noted that currently the DoD is focusing on the contract that the SOA executed, where the federal agencies are third-parties to that contract, meaning the receiving services from the various contracts could be the operations management contract, or it could be the infrastructure, operations, and infrastructure maintenance contract that DoD also has with Motorola, who is the sub on that, so both those contracts are included or must be included, which falls under 10USC 2679. Mr. Woodall stated that the federal government is receiving in kind services, third-party relationship services, and as federal agencies are required to have in place an IGSA, because of the accountability of funds that are provided to the state in this process. He commented that typically when there is a contract and services are provided, then when paying for the services via contract, those appropriated funds are accounted for in a specified way.

Mr. Woodall stated that there is currently no way for the DoD to track the funding that is being spent or provided to pay for the services that are being provided, but on the other hand, in addition to the contracted services which the state is providing, the state provides other services like operations management services, but then the state owns the radio infrastructure, and some agencies, not infrastructure owners, have subscribers that are seeing those radios and writing that infrastructure, including the State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS). The state is the maintainer and provider of that communication system, and in lieu of that communication system, they would have to have their own infrastructure, provide their own maintenance, and do their own life cycle. He noted that these are the types of things that this IGSA is to be established for, it is to codify and legalize the relationship that the state has as a provider of these services to the federal government agencies and these agencies are indeed getting an economy of scale, they are getting a benefit, and they are getting a cost savings over what it would cost them to do it themselves. Mr. Woodall briefed that the documentation that goes forward to justify the IGSA will show that the long term cost share solution will become an operational and contractual part of that IGSA, so the council really needs to work on that because the two will come together quite quickly. The DoD is at the Secretary of Defense level, because they have talked to the Army, and the Air Force, and they have reached out across the DoD to the other agencies, and they have determined that this indeed should be executed through the services that were received from the state. This should be codified by IGSA, and it would be signed on the DoD's side of the house at the Secretary of Defense level. Mr. Woodall noted that it is going to become complicated because the DoD is going to have to reach out to the other federal agencies: FBI; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF); Federal Protective

Services; Bureau of Land Management; etc., and their agreement to play along or act on this IGSA, but there is no other legal means by which federal government agencies can receive services from a non-government agency, and/or receive those services where they could execute a contract under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), because the DoD or Federal Non-DoD agency that would be receiving services that would be contracted, would be required to comply with the FAR. He briefed that 10USC 2679 waives federal agencies having to comply with the FAR requirements by allowing the state government agency or some other local government to contract and/or provide services. It also waives the Davis Bacon Act (DBA) under Congress, that is a small business act where the DoD has to consider women owned businesses, which is not something that the state has to do in contracting, so it provides a waiver for when the DoD is receiving these services as a third-party. They would not be held liable under the DBA and that would be for all federal agencies, and that is why it is very important that we execute this, mind you that when the DoD started sharing contracted services with the SOA, 10USC 2679 had not passed in Congress, so the DoD was not in violation of the law. Mr. Woodall noted the fact is the DoD is already in that relationship, so this agreement would codify it, make it legal, and quite frankly, it will provide the structure that the DoD will need to be able to implement it and continue it in a manner in which the state is safe. What the state and DoD is providing, as far as other federal agencies are concerned, are not in violation of the DBA, and being able to effectively account for the funds appropriately and legally will be sufficient in our operations. It is something that we need to do, and it is good that the DoD was able to look into it. He commented that it was a difficult path to find, but legally this is where the DoD needs to be and the DoD is working on fixing it.

Mr. Woodall briefed that the DoD is in the process of working through the paperwork that has been provided from the Secretary of Defense level, with a checklist and a number of other documents and forms that the DoD needs to complete that will build the structure for the IGSA. He noted that some of the documents and forms the state has to prepare and some of the agencies that will be receiving the services have to prepare, so Mr. Woodall has been working with Mr. Stormo and they most likely will be meeting with SOA contracting. Some unresolved questions need to be determined, such as, is this agreement going to be between the federal agencies, member agencies, and the SOA DPS; or the SOA Department of Administration (DOA); or the SOA DPS and Department of Administration. Mr. Woodall noted that there are some decisions that have to be made on the part of the SOA on how legally they want to write that or how they want that to be formed, but the DoD would like to move through this hopefully in the next 90 to 120 days. The DoD wants to get to the point where they can have that agreement ready to go through to formal legal, and coordination by all of the agencies, so it is a fast track that they will be on now that the DoD has all of the required directions, checklists, forms, and information that they need to provide. Mr. Woodall asked that the state helps with that, and then the other federal agencies, when he reaches out to them, he will be providing them with some draft paperwork that follows the templates that are provided and drafted initially for them. He states that the other agencies can certainly make whatever changes are necessary, but they will give them what is called an 85% answer on the documentation. Expect to see that coming jointly on behalf of the Executive Council, which he thinks is how they will word it rather than the DoD doing this, because

it is on the behalf of the Executive Council, and a subcommittee should be formed to work on this. Mr. Woodall noted that this process is his recommendation, so it does not look like it is the DoD or something that is at the direction of the Executive Council.

Mr. Woodall commented that is all he has, unless someone has any questions.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan recognized Mr. Rob Ragadio who had a quick question.

Mr. Ragadio, who is with Motorola Solutions, commented that he thinks that is great news, and noted that on the DoD side, he thinks one of the challenges that they have had for any of these upgrades across the Pacific Northwest region has been moving funds from Capital Expenditures (CapEx), Operational Expenditures (OpEx), Operation and Maintenance, Army (OMA) funds, or Other Procurement, Army (OPA) funds to OpEx dollars, because once it goes into OpEx or OMA funds in the DoD space, it becomes a budgeted line item. He noted that he believes some of the challenges in the past relate to ALMR having been all the billpayers, all the branches coming to the table with the funds at the same time, so it is going to help tremendously in that area. Mr. Ragadio stated that the question then is for the various branches, so Army and Air Force, would they then cut a purchase order (PO) to the SOA, or would it still operationally be the same or would they cut it directly to Motorola.

Mr. Woodall responded that in this case the federal government agencies will be a third-party and they will have an IGSA from the SOA to provide specified services. The DoD relationship will be with the SOA, and the SOA is authorized under 10USC 2679 to execute a contract if required, and again the DoD in execution of that contract fulfills the services, they are not held to the requirements of the FAR or small business contracting requirements. Mr. Woodall noted, that frees the DoD or other federal agencies from being held liable from that perspective, and the IGSA would define when funds would be brought to the table; how funds will be provided to the state; and it will define the services. He commented that this may be getting in too far with the question, but he stated he would just give a quick example: one of the big problems the DoD had with the system upgrades is that the contractor, and he knows he is talking about Motorola now, has two teams, a federal and a state team, but the fact is the DoD does not have a contractual relationship with Motorola, so contractually all of the work that Motorola is doing on ALMR, whether it is a site termed federal DoD, it is not in fact under a contract for the federal DoD sites, it is a state contract. Mr. Woodall noted that if a site on ALMR was executed under an SOA contract, that means it does not have to comply with some of the requirements. For instance, when looking at the routers and so forth, if there was a specific type of router the DoD had to have because the DoD had certain requirements, the SOA did not need to comply with the requirement, so there should be only one contract person. He noted that contractors cannot come and talk to the DoD directly, because they are not a written party to the contract or a third-party, and so he cannot give any answers with regard to contract actions, but it has to be the SOA. In this process, for example: the SOA during an emergency requires or sometimes it is a necessity to keep the system operational and sustainable, so they will go out and fix the microwave; fix something that is broken; replace batteries that are bad; or a radio site is not working quite right, the DoD does not have a contract in place to do so. Mr. Woodall

commented that the SOA has their own maintenance capabilities, so in other words, their SATS maintenance crew goes out and fixes a microwave to make the ALMR system work, but it is a microwave on a DoD installation on a DoD tower, so the state sent people out to climb that tower, to touch that microwave, to fix an antenna or whatever it is, in order to keep the system operational. He noted that the IGSA will provide for and protect the state in that process, and it will also lay down a process by which they would do that, so in that case, the state is providing ALMR those maintenance services, and if the state was continuing to provide the services on an ongoing basis, then the question might be asked, why the DoD does not have a contract under the FAR for the services. Mr. Woodall stated that, in other words, the DoD violated the incentive contract because they have a continuing requirement for which they did not get a contract for the services, and the state would be seen as cutting out small businesses under the DBA. The DoD is putting themselves in jeopardy by having that relationship without 10USC 2679 and the IGSA. He noted that when the DoD entered into this arrangement, this provision was not codified by Congress yet, but now that it is, the DoD and SOA need to get it in place and it will put everyone in a much better position.

Mr. Ragadio stated that he thinks it is a great thing and great news, and in that way, everybody is moving in the same direction, not trying to piecemeal an upgrade together, so to speak.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that there are two takeaways that he got out of the discussion, first the council needs to change Section C to an Intergovernmental Support Agreement, which he does not think is a problem.

Paul Fussey stated that Robert's Rules of Order notes that the council would need a motion to change the title of Section C officially.

**Motion: Change the title of Section C from Fiduciary Responsibility Documentation to Intergovernmental Support Agreement**

The motion was made by Deputy Commissioner Morgan and seconded by Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis. There were no objections or further discussion. **The motion was carried and approved.**

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that the council will change Section C to the new title and it will get corrected, and he just wanted to say that he approves of the idea of a working group with the User Council and ALMR staff by the next Executive Council meeting. He commented that he received the email that sort of had a draft example of this topic and it sounds like a no brainer, so let us make sure that it gets done. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that he can answer the question if it is going to be DPS or DOA, he says he is about 35% sure it is going to be DPS, but he will get an answer for the council. He commented that a DPS staff attorney can be assigned to this because of the contract language, so he will ask Sarah Stanley to get involved and assist the working group with getting the right language that complies with both the new federal law and state procurement and contracting process.



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

Mr. Fussey briefed that what he has been doing for several months and usually about once a quarter, he will reach out personally to talk to each agency and see how they are doing to meet the goal of having the radios TDMA compliant by December 31st, 2026. He noted he was tasked by the User Council to reach out to the agencies, so he sent out a memo with an Excel spreadsheet asking each of them what radios they have how many radios; what radios they have that are TDMA or could be upgraded to TDMA; and which ones are FDMA only, which means they will have to be replaced. Mr. Fussey commented that he sent it to all 135 agencies and from the memos created a spreadsheet, which was sent over to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) with all the agencies' information for their records.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan inquired if, on the deadline, agencies who are not compliant with TDMA are going to be turned off or removed from ALMR.

Mr. Fussey responded that the agencies who are not compliant are not going to be turned off, and that is why it is worded that the "goal" is to have all radios TDMA compliant. He noted that he has talked about it and put it on record at different User Council meetings that on the ALMR website Approved Equipment page there is the original TDMA paper on there, and it specifically says that the goal is to not turn off any radios, especially with a public safety agency. Mr. Fussy reiterated that ALMR is not going to turn off anybody's radios that are not TDMA by December 31, 2026, however, the goal is to have everybody TDMA compliant.

f. Fairbanks Rabinowitz Courthouse Bidirectional Antenna (BDA). Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated he will address this item.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan briefed that the state had funds leftover from a capital expense on E911, and they had submitted a reallocation of that capital specifically for the Rabinowitz Courthouse, which was turned down. He stated that, however, it is going to be in the budget package moving forward, because they have to get the legislature to again allow them to reallocate the remaining funds. Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted the funds are there and it was the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that made a decision that the reallocation request was too far outside the original scope. He commented that to be very frank, DPS disagrees with that, however, that is the way it works. Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that they have to go back to the legislature and have them approve the reallocation of those existing funds and then the project can be executed. He noted that it is going to delay it going through the legislative session, but he does not see any issues with it, but that means that they are not doing anything until July at the earliest next session.

g. Motorola Contract. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Stormo for an update on this topic.

Mr. Stormo briefed that he has spoken with DPS procurement again and they are setting up a meeting with the state's Chief Procurement Officer next week just to kind of have some initial discussion on what the contract strategy could be going forward. He noted that the Motorola contract is a little over a year and a half out from when the current contract will have used up its last option year, so they are trying to get into the window as to where they will need to go on that. Mr. Stormo stated that he thinks they need to have some discussion related to funding and requirements, because this is the kind of issues they are running into at the end of the 2nd 10-year contract. He noted that a lot of the technologies or services that started in these contracts 20 years ago, at a minimum change names, but there is definitely a lot of cybersecurity type stuff and other capabilities that may or may not want to be included as requirements going forward rather than just continuing to be limited to what was started 20 years ago. Mr. Stormo stated that it is kind of a conversation amongst the infrastructure owners and then the IGSA obviously needs to be in place in order for everybody to participate in that contract effort. He commented that it is getting close to the point where they needed to get moving on that.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that the IGSA and this contract are synonymous, it is the same process really, and if the state is going to enter into contracts, basically the state would look at the IGSA as subcontracts to what the state is doing, so that is all the same conversation. He inquired about who Mr. Stormo is working with at procurement.

Mr. Stormo responded that it is Kelly and the Chief Procurement Officer is Tom Mayer, he believes is his name.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan said "OK" in response to Mr. Stormo's comment.

h. Tudor Road Electrical Work. Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Stormo for an update on this topic.

Mr. Stormo briefed that the state is close to having the batteries all done, they did one of the uninterruptable power supply (UPS) that had the batteries changed out on it, and for the other UPS, the vendor was short some batteries. They have ordered the remaining batteries and they will be completing the project once the batteries come in.

Mr. Stormo noted that the electrical work, to be blunt, is probably going to be postponed until next spring at this point now that winter has started. It evolved to Chugach Electric needing to change the transformer outside the building, and that he thinks it is about a \$150,000 Chugach Electric project. He noted he believes that Alaska Public Safety Communications Service (APSCS) does not have any responsibility to pay for it, but it probably was not sitting in their list of things they thought they were going to be doing right now, so he thinks they have kind of pushed off on doing that and with winter coming it becomes harder to do. Mr. Stormo stated that his expectation is Chugach Electric will not be finishing that work off until next spring/summer, and it was not really intended to have anything to do with ALMR, but when all of it started coming about, Chugach Electric was trying to put some power out to the yard that APSCS maintains and that was not supposed to have any impact on the building. He commented that as it

got deeper and deeper into the engineering, it turned out Chugach Electric needed a new transformer, because the one that was out there is quite old and apparently not up to current standards and code to be able to do everything it should be doing, so like every project at home always turns into something much bigger than planned, that is what happened here.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that sounded reasonable. He also stated that before leaving Old Business, he would like to set New Business topics for the next meeting, then he decided to wait until the council gets to agenda item number 7.

## **5. User Council Update.**

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

Mr. Rockwell briefed that as far as the User Council committee is concerned, it has one vacant position, which is the alternate for the Federal Non-DoD, and the User Council has been successfully meeting on a monthly basis. He noted that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the infrastructure as well as the new TDMA radios, and he thinks everyone is aware that many of the radios still in the system, like the old XTS 5000 he feels that are at or past their life cycle, as Mr. Fussey just said. Mr. Rockwell commented he thinks the encouragement to build in a refresh cycle is one that the User Council and ALMR are both encouraging, which is an incredible goal.

Mr. Rockwell noted that the User Council has talked a lot about new technology that fits within the ALMR infrastructure, and the User Council keeps on hearing that they are very close to getting the Motorola Connect infrastructure certified through the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) process, and when approved ALMR will start working on seeing how some of the broadband technology works. He stated that is something that in almost every User Council meeting someone brings up, because they are really excited about that. Mr. Rockwell commented that ALMR also has some technical assistance movement through Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) that is looking at the Connected Car program, whether it is police, troopers, fire, ambulance, etc., what was the connected car going to look like in the connected car meeting, where basically it builds a Wi-Fi bubble around the vehicle, which they can have different equipment and different things attached to the Wi-Fi bubble, whether it is a radio, body worn camera, AED equipment in the vehicles, or whatever type of electronic devices, and so public safety can start to maximize some of the newer technologies. He stated that as far as the other discussions they are just going forward with how the User Council can re-engage in that process of continuing to move the ALMR infrastructure forward, and Mr. Stormo mentioned that everyone is on software version 2021 but 2021 is 3-4 years down the line, so the User Council needs to keep looking forward to what would that life cycle be.

Mr. Rockwell stated that this concludes his report unless he can answer any questions, hearing none, Deputy Commissioner Morgan moved on to the next agenda item.

## **6. Operations Management Office.**

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Fussey to provide an update on the Operations Management Office (OMO).

a. Training and Outreach. Mr. Fussey briefed that Mr. Dan Nelson, who is another Westmann and Associates employee, does the monthly training vignettes. If members go on the ALMR website under training, they will see new monthly videos on there, which are usually 5 to 6 minutes long, and they are created from questions received from the field. He commented that if people want to know more about a subject, then Mr. Nelson will create a video vignette and upload it to the website. The latest vignette was about the Zone Control Rollovers, and anybody who is not familiar with Zone Control Rollovers can watch the video vignette. Mr. Fussey stated that once a quarter the OMO and system management office (SMO) does a security update, and he, Mr. Fahnestock, the Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN) folks, and Mr. David Reed, security manager, come to the office at 5:00 A.M. and go through and put security patches into the system. He noted since that is done once a quarter, they have had a lot of questions on how that actually works and why the SMO has to contact all the dispatch centers in the state.

Mr. Fussey also briefed that he and Mr. Nelson were up in Fairbanks at the request of the UAF Fire Marshal, Kyle Green, to perform some ALMR specific training. The training was scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with two sessions, one for the day shift and one for the night shift, each day in Fairbanks and the North Pole respectively. He noted they had approximately 60 people show up in total, and at the end of that training the recorded session was uploaded to the ALMR website. They had quite a few folks from fire, EMS, the city, borough personnel, and other Zone 2 member agencies, so that went really well.

Mr. Fussey stated that since the Fairbanks training, he was asked by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), who have their yearly wing conference coming up on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, to go out and give a lesson on ALMR for all their cadets and how the system works, how it incorporates into the SATS system, and how they can use it not just for their cadets, but also their search and rescue operations.

Mr. Fussey noted that he, Ms. Burnham, Mr. Fahnestock, and the SMO have been working with the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and they are finally members of ALMR. He stated that Mr. Fahnestock and his team have been working with CBP to get their ALMR specific ID numbers, how many radios they are going to put on ALMR, and working with them with their code plugs, and what radios they will put on the system. Mr. Fussey noted that ALMR worked with CBP in the past, but they finally finalized everything this year, so that was good.

Mr. Fussey briefed that the yearly inspection for the Zone 2 master site was completed on October 15<sup>th</sup>, when he was up in Fairbanks for the training session as per the contract. The ALMR policies and procedures states that Zone 2 needs to be inspected

at least once a year or more, so he completed his report. He commented that when the OMO turns in their annual report to Mr. Stormo and his team, they should take a look with the folks from Mr. Fahnestock's team and Motorola how the team at Birch Hill is downloading systems, how they are backing it up, and how they are documenting it, similar to what Mr. Fussey does with the Zone 1 inspection.

Mr. Fussey noted there was a 2024 energy emergency functional exercise at the beginning of October, which was a day long exercise that included all representatives from the rail belt utilities, Cook Inlet gas producers, area hospitals, school districts, local government, emergency managers for the city and borough. He was there as a liaison for any radio questions and how the representatives would talk to each other and interoperability of their radio channels, which was really good training.

b. Project Status Update. Mr. Fussey briefed that he and Mr. Fahnestock are working with some of the other agencies and of course they have the bi-weekly meetings that they talk to the Motorola project team.

c. System Metrics. Mr. Fussey noted that the monthly group and individual calls and the Executive Council had a discussion but did not have a meeting last quarter, so if everyone takes a look all the way through the beginning of the year, which has the 2023 and 2024 stats. There was a huge jump in numbers this month, which he will get into in a little bit, but as everyone can see, it is a very robust system and members are getting a lot of use out of it, and of course these numbers are statewide, so Zones 1 - 2 and 4. He stated that the push-to-talks are once again at over 2 million , which means lot of activity on the system, so when people say that everybody can use their cell phones or everybody is going to use First Net, everyone can see the member agencies around the state depend heavily on the ALMR system. Mr. Fussey commented that through the last month ALMR only had 133 busies, which is a lot of zeros followed by a 1, so what he wanted to bring into that aspect is if the council looks back at the last slide, there are monthly push-to-talks at over 2 million with only 133 busies out of the whole system, out of 2.2 million, which is indicative of the system. Mr. Fahnestock and his team keep track of everything; and Mr. Stormo and his team, and the SAT system with the microwaves, keep everything on track and up and running. Mr. Fussey briefed that as the council starts looking at sites below three 9s, there was a little uptake from September then back in June and July. There were a lot of preventative maintenance inspections (PMIs) going on because as everyone knows, it is Alaska and there is a need to get going on the PMIs while the state is having good weather in order to do them. He noted that the reasons for the three 9s was because there were a couple of weather events, one was up by Fairbanks and the Ester Dome site, which had a huge dump of snow. Mr. Fussey stated that the team could not get up the road to Ester Dome, and the power was out in that area, so what was happening was they were having some issues with the louvers. Every time the generator would kick on to try and charge up the batteries to keep the site running the louvers were frozen shut and then the generator would overheat and just shut down. He noted that Ester Dome was not on the Below Three 9s list, and then of course, when Ester Dome went down, then through the SAT system everything was

rerouted back to the other way, so there was a little latency on that one. Mr. Fussey commented that when the council starts looking at Ester Dome site then Clear, Garner, Money Knob, Nenana, Reindeer Hills, and Yanert were hitting below three 9s because of Ester Dome. He stated that PMIs at Clear, Fire Station 12, and New Knik were the cause for them to be below three 9s.

Mr. Stormo added that he just wanted to comment real quick about the sites below three 9s, that because of some of the new technologies that have been put on the system in the last 10 plus years, one being the Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) network, and prior to that going in the newer microwaves when Ester Dome would go down then Clear, Garner, Money Knob, Nenana, Reindeer Hills, and Yanert would have all stayed down the entire time. He noted that when this recent outage happened to those sites, there was a brief outage as the traffic rerouted, back down through Wasilla area, over to Glenallen, up to Denali and back over to Fairbanks, so it is important that technology changes a lot. In the 20 years that ALMR has been around, it is important to continue to invest in the system to make sure that members are taking advantage of new and improved capabilities. He stated that ALMR has outages now, but they are nowhere near the kind of outages that they used to have.

d. Other. Mr. Fussey briefed that he will finish up his report with the other items now. He noted, that as mentioned earlier with the TDMA and FDMA, everyone works really hard in the ALMR office to make sure that radios get approved and tested with different manufacturers and different price points, because when the council starts looking at the state or the city, they have larger budgets than a small Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Fussey stated that the team works to have different companies on that approved equipment list, so the team did complete an ATP with L3 Harris for their XL200M mobile radio and their XL400 portables, which have been updated on to the system. They also completed an ATP for the Viking Kenwood Mobile that is also now on the system and also he wanted to say thank you to the AWARN shop since the team worked with them to complete an ATP with the Motorola N50 portable, which was finished up on November 6th. He noted that because of the AWARN simulcast system, the team had to work carefully to make sure that they did not interrupt their daily business. The AWARN shop was phenomenal and the N50 portable is now added to the approved equipment list Mr. Fussey briefed that one thing he also wanted to bring up was that the Zone 1 master site inspection was completed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, which is also part of the contract, and no discrepancies were observed.

Mr. Fussey commented that the end of the year's newsletter was completed and sent out on 15 October and the next one will be out in January 2025.

Mr. Fussey noted that the quarterly security patch was also conducted and completed.

Mr. Fussey stated that he had a little follow up with the BDAs and the Rabinowitz courthouse, the team met with the Anchorage Fire Marshal, the city, the APSCS engineers, and the state fire marshal's office back in August. The team discussed with them the new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Fire Code (IFC) for installation, inspection, and acceptance testing of BDAs and distributed

antenna systems (DAS). He noted that with the new NFPA and IFC regulations, the team is reaching out, discussing, and talking to folks and letting them know the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires licensing approval if someone is going to use BDA or DAS systems. The FCC licensees also need to be asked to be put into the FCC system and that they will have yearly inspections. Mr. Fussey commented that this is not something that ALMR or Mr. Stormo's office will inspect, but the actual building owner and/or facility owner will need to start setting up a yearly inspection for their BDA and/or DAS system.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any questions or comments on the report from Mr. Fussey.

## **7. New Business.**

Deputy Commissioner Morgan noted that he would like to use this time to set the agenda for the January meeting, so a couple of the big takeaways from this meeting are the IGSA issues along with the Motorola contracts. He stated that his plan is if the council could make that the focus of the next meeting and incorporate that with the cost structure in terms of different options for how to have basically a fee for service for the system. Deputy Commissioner Morgan commented that he will get DPS legal, probably Sarah Stanley, to attend, just so she could get on the ground floor of the IGSA issue, but that is all in one larger bubble and the council can break it out however they want, but it is all interrelated and needs to be addressed.

Mr. Bradley Wayland noted that they just received their inventory and that may not be a bad thing to cover at the next meeting too, is just a consolidation of inventories and if there are any issues out there.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan stated that if members are looking for or even examining fee structure based on per radio, whether it is active or not active inventory is going to be important, so the council can place that on things to talk about.

**8. Next Meeting.** Deputy Commissioner Morgan advised the next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025.

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

**Motion: Adjourn the November 7, 2024, meeting of the ALMR Executive Council.**

The motion was made by Mr. Wayland and seconded by Colonel DeAngelis. There were no objections. **The motion was carried and approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan  
Department of Public Safety  
ALMR Executive Council

**Distribution:**

SOA/DPS, Deputy Commissioner Leon Morgan  
USNORTHCOM/ALCOM J6, Colonel Nicholas DeAngelis  
AFEA, Mr. Bradley Wayland  
MOA, Captain Gina Burington  
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  
ALMR SMO, Mr. Nikalus Fahnestock