

DaneCom (expanded design)

March 5, 2015

Dane County staff (PSC and Corporation Counsel) have concluded contract amendment negotiations with Harris Corporation regarding an expansion to the system requested by DaneCom users. These efforts were set in motion last fall in response to requests from the Executive Boards of the Police, Fire, and EMS Chiefs' Associations...asking for more in-building coverage, improved paging effectiveness, and, if possible, enhanced analog tactical capabilities. The contract amendment delivers on all three of those requests.

Objectives:

- Improve coverage of the daily-use system (P25 trunked radio system) into “thicker” (than houses) buildings in as many incorporated areas as possible without compromising the countywide coverage for portable and mobile radios.
- Bolster coverage of the paging sub-system in areas reporting troubles (e.g. Cambridge, Deerfield, and Stoughton).
- Enhance the analog tactical sub-system at the request of Police, Fire, and EMS Associations.
- Finalize the plans/terms for completing the mutual aid sub-system.

Results:

- P25 coverage will be increased in areas surrounding the 3 new tower sites (DeForest, Deerfield, and Stoughton...and for Rockdale/Cambridge...as a result of moving to a county-owned tower at Rockdale) while not diminishing the countywide coverage below the specs called for in the original contract.
 - Coverage is guaranteed to be at the 16 db level for 95% of the geographic area of the aforementioned municipalities.
- New paging transmitters will be installed at 3 of the new sites, thus improving coverage.
- New analog tactical transmitters/receivers will be added at all new tower sites; and, a second analog tactical channel has been added as requested by Police/Fire/EMS users.
 - Analog tactical is intended to be used on active interior fires and for active assailant scenarios inside structures; having 2 channels will ensure a channel for simultaneous fire and LE incidents, if any occur.
- The Brigham tower will be used to complete the mutual aid sub-system.
- Ancillary benefits were also negotiated.
 - New hardware and software (the latest versions) were added in light of delays in implementation...to ensure we have the most modern installation available.

Financial considerations:

- Total costs will exceed the \$3M already budgeted, by about \$3.75M.
- However, about \$1.3M in reductions were included...would have been about \$5M.
 - Reductions included special pricing for new hardware and software, waiving of the maintenance contract costs for 5 years, no charge for engineering services for the expansion portion of the project, the aforementioned Brigham site (improvements), and a discount on “radio-for-phone” licenses.