



**RESOLUTION TITLE:** RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE NC STATE HIGHWAY PATROL VOICE INTEROPERABILITY PLAN FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS (VIPER) AS THE NEXT GENERATION EMERGENCY SERVICES RADIO SYSTEM PLATFORM FOR GASTON COUNTY; SPECIFICALLY, TO ENDORSE THE FIRE SERVICE APPLICATION FOR A 2017 FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AND TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED 10% MATCHING FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000

**WHEREAS,** the citizens of Gaston County are currently protected by an antiquated and obsolete UHF/VHF emergency services radio system that is approaching 16 years of service and becoming increasingly difficult to maintain adequately; and,

**WHEREAS,** in September 2013 a multi-agency subcommittee of public safety officials along with County staff was commissioned to evaluate available options for the next generation emergency services radio system platform; and,

**WHEREAS,** following an extensive evaluation of multiple system options the subcommittee voted unanimously to designate the NC VIPER system as the preferred system for implementation; and,

**WHEREAS,** due to the predicted cost burden, it was deemed to be in the public interest for all agencies to develop creative funding sources where possible, and specifically for the fire service, to collaboratively seek a Joint Regional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to more cost-effectively purchase and install the county-wide VIPER radio system; and,

**WHEREAS,** the FEMA AFG program limits such radio system grant awards to non-infrastructure purchases to a maximum of \$2 million dollars and requires the regional grant partners to provide a one-time 10% fund match.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to designate the NC State Highway Patrol Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) as the next generation emergency services radio system platform and to endorse the county-wide fire service bid for a 2017 Joint Regional Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant by providing the required 10% matching grant funds not to exceed \$200,000 dollars.

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**DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE**

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

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