



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.

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:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	Brown	Fraleigh	Grant	Hovis	Kelgher	Phillbeck	Worley	Vote
2017-299	12/12/2017	AF	TP	A	A	A	A	A	A	N	6 - 1

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Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Fire Marshal

Board Action

File #: 17-401

Commissioners Brown & Fraley - Fire Marshal - 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

STAFF CONTACT

Eric Hendrix - Fire Marshal - Fire Department - 704-866-3231

BUDGET IMPACT

Fund Balance Appropriation. Maximum of \$200,000 in County funds (10% match for \$2 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program)

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Due to the estimated cost burden of upgrading the County's antiquated emergency services radio system to the next generation platform, departments providing fire and emergency services throughout Gaston County wish to collaboratively seek a Joint Regional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to more cost-effectively purchase and install the NC State Highway Patrol Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) county-wide radio system. The 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. Since the County was not awarded a FEMA AFG for the 2016 grant cycle, this Board Action seeks to again gain the endorsement of the Gaston County BOC to designate the NC VIPER radio system as the next generation emergency services radio system platform, support the Joint Regional FEMA AFG application, and to provide the required one-time 10% matching grant funds not to exceed \$200,000 dollars for the 2017 grant cycle application.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution and AFG Informational Document(s)

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