

**Public Safety Collaborative
Minutes
October 16, 2003**

1. Meeting was called to order at about 8:05 a.m. by Joye McElwee
2. Attendance listing is available at Attachment 1.
3. Summary of the meeting:
 - a. Joye opened the meeting with an overview of the Collaborative's history, including it being stood down in January 2000 because attendees felt needs addressed by the Committee were being met elsewhere.
 - b. Introductions were made, with each person identifying who they were, who they represented, etc.
 - c. First order of business involved a review of the Unmet Needs List distributed to each attendee. The items retained or added to the Unmet Needs List provided in Attachment 2.
 - d. Commissioners Coonrod and Decker briefed the group that the County would need to initiate efforts for a Law Enforcement Tax Initiate Two during 2004 because of the State's reductions in reimbursements to Greene County on the jail, juvenile, and Assessor over the past 2-3 years. The State's financial situation is expected to continue for another year or two. Without financial help, the County will be \$.5M short of being able to keep its financial reserve equal to 3 months operating expenses come December 2004 (at the current drain of its financial reserve). As it now stands, if the State further reduces its reimbursements to Greene County when it issues its budget in June 2004, a direct pass-on of those reductions to law enforcement will need to occur. Until now Greene County has absorbed such impacts from its financial reserve. That can no longer occur. The County Commission will look to this group, the Chamber, and its Financial Advisory Board for support of the LETI2 effort.
 - e. Jay Huff explained how Springfield would need to increase the number of police officers and equipment due to the growth. Commissioners explained how unlike the initial LETI, the County would not be able to share the LETI2 to the extent it did with initial LETI. A lengthy explanation followed as to the rationale for this need.
 - f. Don Kocian explained the following regarding the 800 TRS:
 - 1) The VHF Siren system antenna has been moved to the 800 TRS tower near the 911 Center and so has the VHF All Sheriffs antenna. The old radio towers have been removed. This change went well.
 - 2) We never experienced a system busy on the new TRS. We are getting ready to add 650 more users, but believe we still have the capacity for that growth.
 - 3) Availability has been 99.9 percent. The .01 percent loss occurred because of a system design, malfunction, and procedural error. During transfer switch maintenance, two circuit breakers tripped that were not alarmed. Protections have now been implemented that should prevent this type incident from occurring again.

- 4) Warranty and repair procedures for the radios and batteries.
Note: This issue has been covered in depth at a meeting since our Collaborative meeting. I will not address those procedures here as more detailed information was provided at the second meeting.
- g. Roger Brogue explained that City Utilities 800 TRS has a new piece of test equipment that allows them to test antennas and determine how well they are performing. He went on to explain how the short antenna, when used on the 800 TRS handheld, can reduce output by 50 percent. The short antennas are designed to be used on the Public Safety hard wire mikes (PSMs). The problem with use of an antenna on coiled mike cords is that when they stretch or retract the electronic characteristics of the cord change, varying the output of the radio up or down accordingly. Note: Joye asked why this information can't be put on a website so others can access such information. Don and Roger indicated they could provide that information for that purpose.
- h. The question was asked as to what 800 TRS needs will there be when Missouri goes to a Statewide 700 MHz system. Don Kocian explained that patches can be made to the 800 TRS system similar to what we do now for VHF frequencies. Also, Motorola is coming out with a new series of radios that will be 800/700MHz capable. The current 800 MCS/MTS radios we are using will phase out in 2005. No timeline for a statewide 700 MHz radio system has been established, but it will not come soon. Don says that even with the new 800/700 MHz radios, you will still only be able to operate on one system at a time, without patching at the infrastructure level.
- i. Joye McElwee explained how there is a need to have an 800 MHz tower located between Greene County and Jasper County. This tower would allow the Joplin and Greene County 800 TRS systems to be linked and provide a solid 800 TRS corridor down I-44. Don Kocian explained the timeline we must follow if this is to occur. We must make some changes to our central 800 TRS site by December 2004, but can wait until 2007 for final construction of the site. Technologies are moving at a rapid pace. The Justice Dept. and State organizations are supportive of this process. Cost could reach \$500K.
4. Those left in attendance agreed to have PSC meetings quarterly. Meetings will normally be held on the third Thursday of the first month of each calendar quarter. Unfortunately during January 2004, that day I am out of town. I would like to move the meeting to January 29, 2004 at 9 a.m. in the OEM office. If that presents a problem, let me know.

Respectively Submitted,

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1. Attendance Listing
2. Unmet Needs Listing

Joye G. McElwee

Attachment 1

**Attendance Listing
Public Safety Collaborative
October 16, 2003**

Don Kocian	City Utilities
Roger Brogue	City Utilities
Shelia Wright	City Council of Springfield
Bill Deal	City Utilities
Jay Huff	Springfield Police Department
Ron Shook	Greene County
Joye McElwee	Office of Emergency Management, Springfield-Greene County
Ryan Nicholls	Willard Emergency Management
Steve Eggers	Springfield-Branson Regional Airport Fire
Richard Berry	SMSU Public Safety
Bob Rothrock	Missouri Highway Patrol Troop D
Darrell Decker	Greene County Commission
Becky Jungmann	911 Communications
J.R. Webb	911 Communications
Dave Coonrod	Greene County Commission
Jeff Reinold	Greene County Budget Officer
Glen Gardner	Mayor Ash Grove
Capt. Jim Barber	Greene County Sheriff's Department