



# Onondaga County Legislature

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Chairman

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## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2022 MARK A. OLSON, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Ryan, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. McBride

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Ms. Lesniak, Mr. Frantzis, Mr. DeSantis, Mr. Bleyle, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Velasco, Ms. Vilardi

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. *A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan to waive the reading of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **SHERIFF'S:** William Bleyle, Chief Deputy

- a. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing Replacement of Radios for the Sheriff's Department in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$4,665,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,665,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$4,665,000)

Mr. Bleyle:

- Thank you for your time – representing the Sheriff's office to present a bonding resolution of \$4.665m for replacement of the Sheriff's radio system – in 2009 Onondaga County ("OC") invested \$35m for radios for Sheriffs and all public safety – this was bonded for 10 years which was the service life of the system – those are now 13 years old – no longer serviceable – back in 2013 vendor said parts would be scarce – chips and other components don't have a long shelf life – struggled through from 2013 to now – no longer service radios as of 2020 – many key component parts are no longer available
- Continuing to see radio failures to include chip component failure and inability to hold memory– starting to see the ports wear – portable radios that you see in the field – wear and tear makes it hard to reprogram – new 21 deputies in the academy and only had 11 radios – NYS contract prices and total represents a 1 for 1 replacement – look at replacing in two phases starting in 2022 new radios cost of \$3.5m which includes programming and speaker microphones – phase two in 2023 to purchase mobile units for \$1.55m will include replacement of car radios – will be a few old radios that will continue be used – could sell and obtain some money for the old unused radios – could repurpose to other OC agencies – old radios were a big success and saw few complaints – biggest issue is price – older units could be repurposed to volunteer fire departments

Mr. Knapp:

- What's the procurement process going to look like – Mr. Bleyle answered they will sit with purchasing – think OC could do better than the State contract with a large purchase putting mobile and car radios on the table – Mr. Knapp asked how does evaluation work – Mr. Bleyle answered would look hard to see where we want to go with hardware – problem with radio systems today is they install a number of proprietary features – want to sell you their brand – upside is that federal government said these need to operate on any system – put out a list of factors that all vendors have to meet – if disaster all radios would

be able to work – there are soft failures – how a brand fails is different which is not a factor in federal requirements – some still are able to function with a failure – if a new feature comes out for instance GPS for portables – vendors have differences in how they work – go sole source or open for competitive bidding

Mr. Bleyle:

- Answered Mr. Ryan’s question regarding bidding – procurement has not put out a bid – prices are from State contracting – portables looking at 700 and mobile 192 – mobile for a vehicle is much different for boat and aircraft – same for portables – drug unit uses different frequencies so would need dual band – SWAT teams uses headsets – all of these factors play into pricing
- Answered Mr. Ryan’s question is there discussion on looking at this beyond the sheriff’s department – not sure if city has been replacing
- Confirmed that there was a county wide purchase of radios – all on same platform and equipment
- Was involved in planning well before 2009 – recollection was that OC bid the system – of the \$35m total – in order to make it happen to include all agencies – towns and village police, WEP, state – agreement was that all equipment was purchased together but departments were responsible for all replacements – one thing that could happen is to open up bidding for other departments
- Jefferson County built into this radio system fairly recently – so if they wanted to utilize the pricing of Jefferson County they could do that- OC could open this up to fire departments and any other counties

Mr. Olson:

- Fayetteville is going through this and received a \$543k grant – timing is very difficult because of labor and supply shortage – Fayetteville, Manlius, Minoa and Kirkville had to pay 5% of the total - grants available and people need to look for grants

Mr. Ryan:

- Repair is a big component – some radios get repaired outside of the county

Mr. Bleyle:

- Back in 2009 there was an extended warranty – now the units are less radio and more like a computer – repairs have been low – used to have a repair contract which was essential – models currently used are very rugged – few components as they are basically one big chip – so maintenance is substantially reduced – could ask for two year warranty – local shops don’t have parts or propriety information – antennas can be replaced and cracked case – costs of equipment to do anything more is prohibitive – local shop which handles a lot of radios still can’t handle this – can only do cosmetics – antenna, cases, volume control, screen – the new stuff has multi-layer surface boards

Mr. Garland:

- State contract pricing – you may be able to make that better – please elaborate

Mr. Bleyle:

- State contract pricing is set for knowing they are going to sell a lot throughout the State but still sold in small numbers like fire departments – if you’re dealing with larger numbers they should do better just on volume

Mr. Garland:

- Are you applying for any state grants – Mr. Bleyle answered been looking for state grants and haven’t found any that would make

Mr. Olson:

- If you could do phase 1 and 2 at the same time that would help with supply chain backlog and pricing increases

- Is there a reason why the Sheriff department hasn't started a reserve fund on a yearly basis

Mr. Bleyle:

- You would pay more over the 10 year period – technology is changing so rapidly – software being replaced every two years – as radios evolve so does software – it could be problematic because you have different ages of radios – if you have different versions of same radios then you have different vendors to install and upgrade – merit to doing a bulk purchase – not cheap radios at about \$4k per radio – run the risk of changing charging stations – price includes all new chargers – current line of chargers aren't compatible with design changes

Mr. Olson:

- We received mobiles but can't get stationary and struggling to get vendors to program

Mr. Knapp:

- 75%-80% of repairs are cosmetic and it would be a shame if these repairs were sent outside of the County

*A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

### ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2022

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Bill Bleyle	OC50
Tenesha Murphy	CE office
Yvette Velasco	LAW