



# Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

## Radio Project

January 28, 2025. 1:30 PM  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Danielle Bethell.

**Board Office:** Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, Shawnnell Fuentes, Toni Whitler, Jon Heynen, and Matt Lawyer.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Sheriff's Office:** Nick Hunter.

**Public Works:** Brian Nicholas, Dennis Mansfield, Michael Pierce, and Richard Grabotin

**Metcom:** John Thompson, Mark Daniel, Jay Alley, and Gwen Johns.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

### Summary

Tate is progressing with RF design and data network plans, with site improvements expected by summer 2026. The project faces a \$2.2 million funding gap, with Metcom agencies contributing \$400,000. User fees for agencies like Mount Angel and State Police range from \$46,713 to \$159,160 annually. The board emphasized the need for interoperability and proposed a scalable system, with a decision required by February 12 to proceed with Pate's deployment plans.

### Marion County Radio Project

- Project Status Update:
  - Tate is under contract and working on the radio frequency (RF) design and baseline data network design:
    - Due to be delivered by February 15.
  - The civil site improvements are well over 50% complete.
  - The team expects to have antenna information by February 15 to finalize the tower designs
  - The plan is to purchase the towers and radio enclosures in advance so the site general contractor can erect the towers:
    - These are the two longest lead-time items
  - The goal is to complete the site improvements by the end of this year.
  - Sites will be prepped and ready for the radio system installation and deployment in the spring of 2026.
  - Anticipated rollover of agencies onto the new radio system in the summer of 2026.
- Capitalization Plan:

- In November, a refined cost estimate and funding status were presented to the board:
  - Shows the project is currently underfunded.
- Metcom had only around \$700,000 in reserve for the radio project:
  - Not the \$1.3 million that was initially thought.
- The team is hoping to secure a \$2 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG):
  - Help fund the purchase of subscriber units for the fire districts.
- After accounting for the potential grant and Metcom's contribution:
  - The remaining capital gap is estimated to be around \$2.2 million.
- Discussing the feasibility of agencies contributing capital for the initial construction and subscriber unit purchases.

### **Other**

- Concerns raised about the costs and funding challenges for smaller agencies:
  - Limited budgets and may struggle to afford the annual user fees to join the system.
- Need a scalable system that can accommodate the different financial capabilities of the various agencies.
- It is important to have interoperability and all agencies on the same radio system for effective communication and emergency response.

### **Next Steps**

- Metcom agencies will provide a response on their ability and level of commitment to participating after meeting with their members at their February 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- Marion County board members would be happy to attend the Metcom board meeting if it would be helpful.

**Adjourned** – time: 2:48 p.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White