



DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR



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County of Summit and Cities of Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Green, Fairlawn, and Stow Finalize Consolidated Dispatch System Purchase

Taxpayers Expected to Save \$7Million+ Over Next Five Years

The County of Summit and the Cities of Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Green, and Stow have finalized their plans to jointly acquire, own, and operate a Consolidated Computer-Aided Dispatch System (Consolidated CAD System). Last week, those communities executed an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide for the operation and sharing of costs for the consolidated system, which is expected to take approximately 18 months to build. The County also executed an agreement with Tyler Technologies to purchase its New World CAD System, which will serve as the platform for the new consolidated system.

The signing of these two agreements is the culmination of over a year of discussions between the communities, who have undertaken a holistic review of how they provide dispatch services. Last June, several of the communities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to work toward consolidating dispatch services, with the initial step being an examination of the various computer-aided dispatch systems used by the communities. In November 2017, the parties then contracted with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. to assist in the process. While these new agreements do not consolidate dispatch operations, locations, or staff, they represent a positive step forward for 9-1-1 in Summit County. The Consolidated CAD System now can be used by each community in their separate dispatch operations, or, it can be used in the event one or more of the communities elect to consolidate dispatch operations in the future.

The new Consolidated CAD System will replace several computer-aided dispatch systems that are beyond their useful life, and in dire need of replacement. Rather than each community replacing their individual systems, the County and Cities will purchase one Consolidated CAD System. The Consolidated CAD System consists of the core software and associated servers, the licenses/interfaces for the users in the dispatch centers, and the field equipment and licenses used by police, fire, and others.

“All of our communities are looking at significant future costs to upgrade dispatch equipment, and keep it current with advancing technology,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “This collaborative effort among our partners allows us all to share in the cost of keeping our communities safer with more efficient and effected dispatch operations.”

Rather than each community purchasing separate systems, the Consolidated CAD System will result in a collective cost savings of over \$7 million over the first five years of acquiring and owning the system. The upfront cost to purchase and install the system is \$3.4 million, as opposed to \$8.7 million for the communities to purchase separate systems. The communities will save an additional \$1.8 million for the first five years of maintenance of the system.

“Akron’s CAD system is 23 years old; and for years, we have been expending resources to maintain an obsolete system,” Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan said. “This upgraded system will enable us to decrease response times, streamline dispatch, and instantly provide critical information to our first responders. By partnering with other communities, we are able to accomplish these benefits at a reduced cost for Akron taxpayers.” While the City of Akron is participating in the consolidated CAD system, it does not anticipate full operational consolidation.

"Joining with other cities and the County to purchase this new CAD system highlights the benefits of regionalism and how we can collectively work together to produce cost-effective services that benefit not only our residents but first responders as well," stated Mayor Don Walters. "Like the other cities, Cuyahoga Falls is faced with rising costs and the need for additional resources in dispatch and this upgraded CAD system will ensure that our dispatch center remains at the forefront of technology, service, and efficiency."

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement, the County will purchase and own the Consolidated CAD System. The County will also employ the staff necessary to operate the system. All of the costs to acquire, own, and operate the system will be shared amongst the participating communities. The Consolidated CAD System will be operated on a daily basis by Executive Shapiro’s Division of Public Safety, with assistance from the County Office of Information Technology. The system will be overseen by a Consolidated CAD Oversight Committee, made up of one member from each community. The Committee will make staffing, budgetary and operational policy decisions, and will generally require a 2/3 vote of the members, with a unanimous vote needed for high-dollar items.

“As local government resources continue to dwindle, it is necessary for us to participate in new and improved options to operate our city,” said Fairlawn Mayor Bill Roth. “It is very important for Fairlawn to participate in this consolidation and updated technology.”

Additional savings for the Consolidated CAD System will be realized through the application of 9-1-1 wireless funds and a \$500,000 Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) grant. In anticipation of the purchase of the system, the communities have been saving a portion of their 9-1-1 wireless funds, while the State of Ohio last year recognized the importance of this effort with the award of the LGIF grant.

“By joining the Summit County CAD system, the City of Stow gains a huge economic advantage,” said City of Stow Mayor James Costello. “In obtaining the top of the line CAD unit which will provide improved flexibility and operational capabilities for our first responders and increased dedicated hardware operational support for our dispatchers for years to come.”

The Intergovernmental Agreement will last for an initial term of 10 years, with the ability to renew for two additional five-year terms. The Agreement also provides for the addition of parties and the withdrawal of a party, as well as the adjustment of costs necessary under each scenario. Because an enterprise license is being purchased from Tyler Technologies by the County, as new communities join the system, the costs for each community will decrease even further.

“The City of Green is unique among the partners in that our dispatching is split between the Sheriff’s Office for police and our City dispatchers for fire and EMS,” said City of Green Mayor Gerard Neugebauer. “This partnership will benefit our community by allowing the City of Green to upgrade our technology, while reducing operating costs.”

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