

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **State of Ohio Awards \$500,000 Grant for Emergency 9-1-1 Software to County and Several Municipal Partners**

As the County of Summit, Cities of Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, and Tallmadge, and the Village of Mogadore continue to explore the possibility of consolidating dispatch operations as a regional Council of Governments, these partners were recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the State of Ohio Development Services Agency for costs related to purchasing a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software system that would be used in the consolidated effort. The group received the award on March 23, 2017.

CAD is the software system used for initiating and maintaining dispatch resources in the community from multiple sources like traditional 9-1-1 calls or NextGen 9-1-1 services like SMS texts. As communications technology has changed and advanced, the CAD systems that many communities use must also be updated to replace systems that were developed prior to the prevalence of smart-phones and similar devices. As communities look toward consolidation, joining together on the same CAD platform improves the efficiency of dispatch operations and provides better public safety responsiveness.

With that in mind, the partners submitted a grant application to the State of Ohio Development Services Agency for the Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program to help offset costs for a new jointly-used CAD system. The communities are currently pricing a CAD system that would be used by their Council of Governments as well as the City of Akron in its dispatch operations, and would be scalable so that it could be used by any dispatch operation in the County. While negotiations and adjustments are ongoing, the CAD system is anticipated to cost somewhere between \$4 million and \$5 million to accommodate the partner communities plus the City of Akron.

“A Computer Aided Dispatch upgrade will ensure NextGen 9-1-1 compatibility and compliance, and is an essential piece of the technology infrastructure we need as our current systems age and reach their end-of-life,” said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “As local government resources have been reduced over the last decade, we have worked to become innovative in finding ways to pay for necessary upgrades and capital needs like emergency 9-1-1. The grant from the State of Ohio will pay a significant portion of the costs to upgrade and consolidate our CAD system.”

If the partner communities ultimately consolidate dispatch operations, this CAD system will serve as the technology backbone of the consolidation. However, if the communities are not able to consolidate dispatch operations, the CAD system that would be purchased would still be able to be shared by the communities, as well as other communities in the County. By sharing the system, communities will save by not having to each purchase a stand-alone CAD system to keep up with technology.

Presently, the partners on the grant application perform dispatch operations for a large portion of Summit County and a small portion of Portage County. The City of Cuyahoga Falls dispatches for itself, the City of Munroe Falls, the Village of Boston Heights (police only) and the Village of Silver Lake. The City of Stow dispatches for itself, the City of Tallmadge, Village of Mogadore, and Randolph Township in Portage County (fire only). The Summit County Sheriff's Office currently dispatches for itself, the City of Green (police only), the Village of Lakemore (police only), Northfield Center Township (police only), Springfield Township (police only), Twinsburg Township and the Akron-Canton Airport.

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