



# Addison County Firefighters Association, Inc.

## Addison County, Vermont

Formed, December 12, 1944

### Subject: Addison County Firefighters Association – Pilot LMR Deployment Support

To The Vermont State Legislature,

On behalf of the Addison County Firefighters Association (ACFA) and its member agencies, we would like to pledge our support of the Task Forces recommendations for funding in the upcoming years. The current status of the public safety radio system is in dire need of support. True CAD programs and investment into a new Land Mobile Radio System will truly save lives of Vermonters. The segmented and broken approach desperately needs an overhaul and the task force is taking the right steps towards a better system. We ask your committees to support this measure and fund these recommendations.

Additionally, we would like to advocate for the designation of Addison County as a pilot region for the deployment of a statewide Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system. ACFA represents 17 fire agencies and have coordinated with the three EMS rescue squads operating throughout Addison County.

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#### Why This Matters

The State's communications plan identifies critical challenges, including fragmented radio systems, interoperability gaps, and limitations in coverage and infrastructure.

A modern LMR system directly supports the State's priorities by:

- Improving interoperability across emergency response agencies
- Enhancing responder safety and incident coordination
- Reducing system fragmentation and duplication
- Providing reliable coverage in rural and challenging terrain

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#### Why Addison County

Addison County provides an ideal, low-risk environment for a pilot deployment:

- **Representative terrain** (rural, agricultural, mountainous, Lake Champlain) reflecting much of Vermont
- **Existing shared primary dispatch frequency** across most fire agencies
- **Full EMS alignment**, with all three rescue squads committed to the same frequency
- **Centralized dispatch structure**, with most agencies dispatched through Shelburne
- **Limited infrastructure needs**, with a manageable number of tower sites required to demonstrate proof of concept
- **Heavy mutual aid reliance**, where interoperability improvements can be immediately realized

Addison County is not starting from zero—we are already operating in a partially regionalized communications environment.

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#### Demonstrated Readiness

ACFA has taken a leadership role in advancing regional communications. The association has convened multiple advisory board meetings and engaged directly with Televate to better understand system design, implementation considerations, and operational impacts.

ACFA also led the coordination effort that brought the county's EMS agencies from operating on three

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independent channels to a shared, aligned future-state communications approach, demonstrating the ability to achieve cross-agency consensus on complex operational changes.

ACFA is widely recognized as a leading example of a fully unified county mutual aid system, a distinction repeatedly acknowledged by state leadership. This level of coordination is already operational across our agencies.

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### **Pilot Value to the State**

A pilot in Addison County would allow Vermont to:

- Validate interoperability and coverage improvements
  - Test performance in real-world rural conditions
  - Evaluate cost-effective infrastructure deployment
  - Develop scalable models for governance and expansion
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### **Closing**

The Addison County Firefighters Association and our EMS partners stand ready to support implementation and move quickly as a pilot region. This is an opportunity to demonstrate a practical, scalable solution to one of the State's most critical public safety challenges.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome further discussion.

Respectfully,

Corey Pratt - President

Addison County Firefighters Association

On behalf of: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Weybridge and Whiting Fire Department.

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