CALDWELL COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES
P.O. Box 2200 • Lenoir, NC 28645
Dino DiBernardi, Chief of Department/Director
828-757-1424
"A Legacy of Service and Dedication"

TO: Donald Duncan

FROM: Trevor Key

RE: Caldwell County Interoperability Project

With the upcoming Phase II/TDMA changes in the North Carolina VIPER System and limited amount of working radios after the January 2025 change, it was deemed necessary to search for a funding source to provide our County Fire Departments with operational radios. Through networking and partnerships $850,000.00 was granted by the North Carolina General Assembly with the goal of providing the Caldwell County Fire Departments with interoperable multi band radios. In September 2023 we were notified that the funding was approved in the 2023/2025 State Budget, successfully securing the requested $850,000.00.

Requests for public safety grade multi band portable and mobile radios were sent out vendors offering said devices. Three vendors replied with quotes with one particular vendor identified as the best option. The initial thought was to purchase 100 portable radios to be divided among the fire departments. After "shopping around" and talking to vendors we found a competitor offering both mobile radios and portable radios within the $850,000.00 budget. After a competitive process, the awarded vendor has obtained pricing under the state contract price for a significant cost savings allowing the purchasing of 31 additional portable radios and accessories. This allows for a total of 28 Mobile Radios and 131 Portable Radios.

Of the Caldwell County Fire Departments, each department will be issued 8 Portables and 2 Mobiles. This will ensure proper communications for two engine companies per department. Portable radios will come with a battery, charger, and remote speaker mic. The radios will be Caldwell County assets assigned to the respective agencies until the end of 5 Years from issue. Caldwell County will maintain a cache of portable radios purchased through this grant for use in incidents throughout the County. At the end of 5 years, ownership will be transferred to the agency once the devices are out of warranty.

Programming will be performed by Caldwell County Emergency Services with one template/codeplug for all radios insuring functionality and interoperability.

Each Agency will be responsible signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between said agency and Caldwell County.