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**BEAUFORT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA**

April 26, 2024

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
United States Representative
3rd District, North Carolina
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Reference: Beaufort County Emergency Communications Radio Project

Dear Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of Beaufort County Government, I write to offer my support for the Beaufort County Emergency Communications Radio Project funding request of \$500,000. If approved, this request will fund the purchase of 87 mobile and 15 handheld radios that are P-25 narrowband and NC VIPER (Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders) compliant. The mobile radios will be used by Beaufort County's 12 volunteer, 1 industrial (Nutrien), and 1 municipal (City of Washington) fire departments in their daily operations supporting public safety and mutual aid across Beaufort County. The handheld radios will be used by Beaufort County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers in their daily operations providing security and safety resources at all Beaufort County public school campuses.

Interoperability is a critical need when responding to emergencies and this project will help our public safety agencies communicate reliably and effectively with each other when called upon in a crisis. In addition, because these radios will operate on the NC VIPER statewide system, the impact of this project will not only serve Beaufort County, but all constituents in the NC Third Congressional District if, and when, mutual aid events occur outside Beaufort County and Beaufort County public safety resources are requested or when outside resources are requested for an emergency in Beaufort County.

Thank you for your assistance with this request and for all that you do for Beaufort County and residents of North Carolina's Third Congressional District. Please let us know if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Alligood
County Manager

Office of the Sheriff



Beaufort County
210 N Market St.
Washington, N.C. 27889

Scott Hammonds
SHERIFF

Office: 252-946-7111
Fax: 252-946-0993

To: Congressman Greg F. Murphy, M.D
From: Sheriff Scott Hammonds - Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
Date: April 29th, 2024
Subject: Beaufort County – VIPER Radio Funding Request

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Beaufort County Sheriff's Office in support of our county's funding request for the purchase of VIPER radios. This radio system has become the preferred communications platform for local, state and federal public safety agencies, and is currently being used by all EMS and law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County. However, our 13 school resource officers are currently using radios that no longer comply with VIPER network requirements and will cease to be operational after July 1st, 2025. The effectiveness of these critical positions depends on their ability to communicate with other law enforcement agencies and public safety responders quickly and effectively. Providing our resource officers with a portable radio capable of operating on the new VIPER network is instrumental in ensuring the safety of our 6,500 students and teachers that attend our public schools daily.

Our office also serves as Beaufort County's primary PSAP, and is responsible for dispatching 911 calls to the appropriate fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies. Beaufort County's volunteer fire departments continue to communicate through a VHF network, which creates communication gaps and an overall lack of interoperability with partnering agencies. If awarded, these funds would allow for the purchase of mobile VIPER radios to be installed in each of our county's fire apparatus, ensuring effective communications between fire, EMS and law enforcement to calls for service. In addition, these radios would allow local departments to communicate with any state and / or federal agencies that may respond to large events such as hurricanes, active assailants, hazardous material response, etc.

On behalf of Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, I'd like to thank you for considering this funding request and for your continued support of eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheriff Scott Hammonds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "H".

Sheriff Scott Hammonds
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
In God We Trust

To: Congressman Greg F. Murphy, M.D

From: Fred Tetterton – President, Beaufort County Fire Chiefs Association

Date: April 26th, 2024

Subject: Beaufort County – VIPER Radio Funding Request

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Beaufort County's Fire Chiefs Association in support of Beaufort County's funding request for the purchase of VIPER radios. This radio system has become the preferred communications platform for local, state and federal public safety agencies, and is currently being used by all EMS and law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County. However, our county's fire departments continue to communicate through a VHF network, which creates communication gaps and an overall lack of interoperability with partnering agencies.

As a rural county, our fire departments are challenged with the provision of fire services using a limited tax revenue. This challenge has prevented our fire agencies from transitioning to the VIPER communications platform, where the cost of a single radio may rival or exceed a department's entire fuel budget. Therefore, we rely heavily on outside funding opportunities like the initiative underway with your office to improve our communications abilities.

If awarded, these funds would allow for the purchase of mobile VIPER radios to be installed in each of our county's fire apparatus, ensuring effective communications between fire, EMS and law enforcement to calls for service. In addition, these radios would allow local departments to communicate with any state and / or federal agencies that may respond to large events such as hurricanes, active assailants, hazardous material response, etc.

On behalf of Beaufort County's Fire Chiefs Association, I'd like to thank you for considering this funding request and for your continued support of eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Fred Tetterton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Tetterton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

President,

Beaufort County Fire Chiefs Association



R.M. Flowers, CFO, MFireE
Fire Chief

Johnathan Hardin, CFO
Division Chief / Fire Marshal

Steven Hodges
Battalion Chief / EMS Coordinator

To: Congressman Greg F. Murphy, M.D
From: Johnathan Hardin – Division Chief / Fire Marshal, Washington Fire / Rescue / EMS
Date: April 29th, 2024
Subject: Beaufort County – VIPER Radio Funding Request

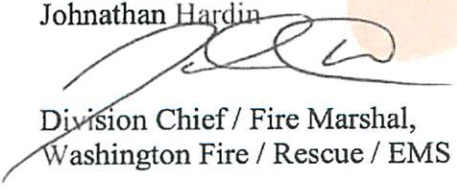
Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Washington Fire / Rescue / EMS in support of Beaufort County's funding request for the purchase of VIPER radios. This radio system has become the preferred communications platform for local, state and federal public safety agencies, and is currently being used by all EMS and law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County. However, our county's fire departments continue to communicate through a VHF network, which creates communication gaps and an overall lack of interoperability with partnering agencies.

As Beaufort County's largest municipality, Washington Fire / Rescue / EMS provides fire protection, Paramedic EMS care and technical life safety services to approximately 10,800 citizens as well as visitors of our growing waterfront community. As the county's only paid career department, we rely on mutual aid from volunteer fire departments for support in our daily operations and the maintenance of our current Department of Insurance Fire Protection Rating. The City of Washington is currently in the process of transitioning all our Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Public Works departments to the VIPER network. Funding that would allow the purchase of mobile VIPER radios to be installed in each of the county's fire apparatus would ensure effective communications between county and city departments during a response. In addition, these radios would allow local departments to communicate with any state and / or federal agencies that may respond to large events such as hurricanes, active assailants, hazardous material response, etc.

On behalf of Washington Fire / Rescue / EMS, I'd like to thank you for considering this funding request and for your continued support of eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,
Johnathan Hardin


Division Chief / Fire Marshal,
Washington Fire / Rescue / EMS



April 26, 2024

Congressman Dr. Greg Murphy
116th-118th Congress of the United States
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC

Congressman Dr. Murphy,

Thank you for responding so quickly to our communication upgrade initiatives for Beaufort County. I am writing this letter in support of Beaufort County's funding request for the purchase of VIPER radios. This radio system has become the preferred communications platform for local, state and federal public safety agencies. It is currently used by all EMS and law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County. However, our county's fire departments continue to communicate through a VHF network. This creates communication gaps and lack of interoperability with partnering agencies.

Nutrien is a leading provider of crop inputs and services. Our world-class production facility in Aurora is registered with and protected by the Maritime Security Act. We prioritize the safety of our employees and the communities that we call home. We take pride in our community partnerships, and we support Beaufort County's request to provide VIPER radios to their fire departments. Improved interoperability through VIPER upgrades will enhance the coordination and communication between different agencies during incident response at the plant site. This will result in faster and more efficient collaboration, allowing for quicker containment and resolution of incidents, ultimately ensuring the safety of both the personnel and the surrounding community.

Thank you for considering this funding request and supporting Eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ted T. Wallace".

Ted T. Wallace
Security & Emergency Response Supervisor
Industrial Emergency Response Specialist
Office 252-322-8011 Cell 252-943-7655

Ray McKeithan
Senior Manager, Government and Industry Affairs
Nutrien
(252) 402-9016