

Alabama First Responder Wireless Commission
Initial Meeting
October 23, 2012
Montgomery, AL

Attendees:

- Michael S. Barton; Alabama Sheriffs Association
- Dennis Blair, EMS Director, Alabama Department of Public Health
- Ernie Blair, Huntsville Madison County 911
- Andy Cannon, Information Technology Manager II, Finance ISD
- Scottie Chandler, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control
- George Conner, State Maintenance Engineer, Alabama Department of Transportation
- Brent Cord, Communications Technician II, Alabama Forestry Commission
- Drayton Cosby, Government Relations, Cosby Company
- Art Faulkner, Director, Alabama Emergency Management Agency
- Leah Garner, Public Information Officer, Alabama Department of Homeland Security
- John Goff, Forest Operations Assistant Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission
- Danny Hughes, Information Technology, Alabama National Guard
- J.T. Johnston, Director, Monroe County EMA
- Col. Hugh B. McCall, Director, Alabama Department of Public Safety
- Roy Mott, Alabama Association of Volunteer Firefighters
- Chuck Murph, Alabama Department of Homeland Security
- Lt. James Patterson, Special Projects, Alabama Department of Public Safety
- Jim Peterson, Alabama Chiefs of Police
- Shirrell Roberts, Deputy Director, Alabama Department of Homeland Security
- Michael L. Stokes, IT Director, Alabama Department of Transportation
- Kim Thomas, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Corrections
- Toni Thomas, ASA II, Alabama Emergency Management Agency
- Walter S. Thompson, Director, Alabama Marine Police
- Lamar Woodham, Deputy Director, Alabama Department of Transportation

10:02am – Meeting Called to Order

- Introduction by Shirrell Roberts
- Introduction of Members
- Review and consideration of agenda
- Amendment 2 to add 911 coming soon
- Question by Art Faulkner to address length of terms for commission
- Motion for approval of bylaws made by Art Faulkner (AEMA)/Seconded by Chief Patterson (DPS)/Motion Carried
- Motion to appoint Toni Thomas as Secretary made by Col. McCall (DPS)/Seconded by Col. Thompson (AL Marine Police)/Motion Carried
- Discussion of Executive Order 34
 - Reason for Commission establishment
 - Three Objectives
 - “Broadband” and “D Block” terms explanation

- Poarch Creek must be reached out to to bring them into the Commission
- NTIA Grant Guidance should arrive no later than February 2013
- Discussion of FirstNet
 - FirstNet looking to use resources already in place
 - The Governor has the ability to opt in or out of FirstNet
 - It is unknown if there will be a negotiation phase within the 90 day choosing period.
 - It is unknown if Alabama chooses to opt that the Federal Government will build something in Alabama for Federal use.
 - FirstNet has not as yet contacted the Commission
 - Network construction must be compatible with both Federal and State; Standards for such will be set
 - If Alabama chooses to opt in the State is not responsible for matching funds
 - If Alabama chooses to opt out the State will be responsible for 20% of the build out.
 - Planning Grant has funds match requirement
- Discussion of Project 25 700 MHz Systems
 - Project 25 allows products from various vendors to work with the system.
 - Transition by City of Mobile to Project 25 in less than five years
 - VHF and UHF Project 25 systems do not communicate with each other
 - Jefferson County not Project 25 compliant
 - Madison and Baldwin Counties linked through Alabama Public Television with internet backup; plans to build sites in Montgomery and Clanton to tie in. Talking to Madison and Morgan Counties to use switch and tie in.
 - Four Switches currently in place – One more needed
 - MOUs needed, not for the state to own the entire system, but for everyone to own and work together.
 - Two Project 25 Sub Committees:
 - System Administrators
 - State Agencies
 - State Agencies to send Agency Representative name to Chuck Murph by November 2, 2012
- Motion Proposed to hire Professional Services by Roy Mott (Alabama Association of Volunteer Firefighters)/Seconded by J.T. Johnston (Monroe County EMA)/Motion Carried
- Alabama Public Television to be added to Project 25 System Administrators Sub Committee.
- Looking toward Voice/Data smartphone device usable for all first responders.
- Next Commission meeting to follow the new year
- Proposed meeting locations: Montgomery, Huntsville, and Mobile
- Motion to Adjourn made by Lamar Woodam (DOT)/Seconded by Kim Thomas (DOC)

11:05am – Meeting Adjourned