

Southeastern Arizona Communications Center (SEACOM)



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

Background



- Joint Emergency Communications has been goal of County and City for over 12 years
- Steps taken for several years to prepare
- Private funding donations enabled this to move forward initially, with additional funding added by Governor in 2015
- MOU approved by both governing bodies in 2016 set foundation
- County acquired and is currently renovating building
- Both teams working together on operational issues and implementation with joint investments

Intergovernmental Agreement



- Foundation for Joint Powers Authority (JPA), quasi-independent entity that permits governmental agencies to exercise joint powers for public safety.
- Outlines major policy points crucial to frame the future operation and protect participating jurisdictions.
- Serves as basis of future IGA's with other local governments who choose to participate in SEACOM.



JPA Governance

- Sierra Vista and Cochise County designated as Principals
- Other municipal participants known as Partners
- All other Participants known as Subscribers
- Principals and Partners have vote on JPA Board represented by their respective CAO or equivalent
- Fire Districts collectively have one vote after 3 join
- Bylaws approved by board, with first iteration requiring both Principal's agreement



JPA Board Authority

Major Functions

- Hire and oversee SEACOM Director
- Approve bylaws, policies and regulations
- Evaluate operations and needs and authorize staff, equipment & capital
- Approve budget and oversee expenditures
- Approve all new Partners and Subscribers
- Approve subscription rates and assessments
- Oversee all compliance



SEACOM Director

Major Functions

- Administrative head of SEACOM responsible for operation, management, hiring and employee supervision
- Prepare, and then implement budget
- Work with all Participants and future Participants
- Develop long-range plans and recommend subscription rates
- Work closely with Operations Committee



Operations Committee

Major Functions

- Standing committee of SEACOM
- Membership includes all fire and police chiefs of all Participants
- Oversee transition
- Review and approve/recommend policies and SOPs to JPA Board
- Set performance benchmarks and goals and monitor
- Develop strategies for ongoing operation and regularly assess
- Chaired by Sheriff, who serves as ex-officio member of JPA Board



Key Foundational Operations Policies

- County serves as fiscal agent and is employer of record
- 100% of SEACOM costs must be covered by Participants
- Participants responsible for their own connecting equipment
- Participants retain ownership of any equipment moved/used by SEACOM
- Spillman technology specified
- Non-county employees assigned to SEACOM retained by jurisdiction
- First year operates as a merger



Sustainability and Protections

- Initial term three years
- Termination/withdrawal requires completion of fiscal year assessment and approval of governing body
- Close coordination with County administration as fiscal agent
- County serves as legal representative

Next Steps



- Approval of IGA by both governing bodies in August
- Convene first JPA Board and adopt bylaws
- Hire SEACOM Director
- Continue with SEACOM implementation



Questions?

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