

# Anoka County Public Safety Data System

## Who is involved in this project?

The Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council (JLEC) is a joint powers entity comprised of all chief law enforcement officers, the sheriff, county attorney, a fire chief, together with county commissioners and city council members. The JLEC has a successful 40-year track record of fostering and managing shared criminal justice programs and consolidated services including major crimes investigation, a consolidated police records system for all 11 law enforcement agencies, and a county-wide dispatch center. For this project, we are working together with the Anoka County Fire Protection Council as well.



## What is the project?



The JLEC is seeking to update the public safety records and information systems. To fund this project, we are seeking to revise the bonding authority granted to the Anoka County Board for the implementation of 800 mhz radio communications in 2002 so that the same mechanism can fund future countywide public safety initiatives.

The project currently in development would replace or upgrade several dated critical public safety records and information service applications in the communications/dispatch center, the police records system, fire service dispatch and records systems, and jail records. The vision for the future of Anoka County's public safety information systems is one of further consolidation and complete integration providing for seamless collection, dissemination, archiving, and analysis of public safety data. We want the right people to have the right data at the right time.

The JLEC and the Fire Prevention Council will be seeking other funding sources for this project including grants, but we anticipate that bonding will be necessary. The JLEC has proposed legislation, with County Board approval, to revise Minn. Stat. §383E.21 which permitted the tax for the public safety levy for 800 mhz radio to appear on a separate line item on property tax statements. This allows our citizens to know exactly where those tax dollars are being spent.

## Why is the JLEC proposing this project?



Currently, public safety information systems in Anoka County are fragmented with different systems being utilized by different disciplines. Call records in the 911 center are not integrated with either police or fire records, requiring either cumbersome "work-arounds" or manual re-keying of already entered data. The countywide law enforcement records system is at the end of its lifespan and does not provide records management for fire or emergency management. Anoka County's jail records require officers to handwrite data already entered into the police records system so that it may be re-keyed into the jail records system. Each time data is transferred from one system to the next, time is wasted and errors may be introduced. Additionally, because of errors in our records across these multiple systems, Anoka County had the highest rate of suspense files in the metro area in 2010, with 14% of our criminal records not being recorded properly due to data errors. Metro counties with better integration of their systems have rates around 5%. We are concerned that we do not have accurate criminal history data as a result.

## How will new systems be selected?

To begin the process of selecting a new system, the first phase of the project will be an extensive needs analysis of law enforcement, fire, dispatch, jail and emergency management. This needs assessment will focus not only on what information needs to be stored by each of the individual system but also on how the systems need to communicate with each other and with external sources. We will be seeking to identify the areas in which we can become more efficient and effective in serving the public without increasing staff. The outcomes of the first phase of the project will be a comprehensive needs analysis, a projected cost and timeline for the project, and one or more RFP's to seek a vendor or vendors which can meet the needs identified in the needs analysis.

## When will the new systems be implemented?

Currently, we only have a time estimate of the first phase of the project. We anticipate approximately six months for completing the needs analysis as well as developing the RFP and the RFP selection process. At the beginning of the second phase of the project, we will develop and agree upon timelines prior to contracting with any vendors.

## How will this project be funded?



The funding for the first phase of the project has already been secured from multiple sources including the JLEC and the Fire Prevention Council. The cost of the second phase of the project is currently estimated between \$3,500,000 and \$5,500,000. A recent project in another metro city that included only law enforcement records system and dispatch cost \$1,800,000. We believe that through collaboration and utilization of a shared system, we can not only serve the public more efficiently and effectively, but we can also realize a significant cost savings through the implementation of a shared system. For the second phase of the project, we will be seeking a variety of funding sources including grants, but ultimately bonding will be required.

As noted above, we are seeking a legislative change to allow for the use of the same funding mechanism used for the 800 mhz project. To this end, members of Anoka County's legislative delegation have introduced SF 275 and HF 429. This will allow the taxpayer to see the cost of the county-wide public safety records and information system on a separate line on their tax statement. These bills enjoy overwhelming bipartisan support from our legislators as well as the Anoka County Board. Presently the bonds for 800 mhz project will be paid off in 2012. Based on the timing of this project, the payment on the bonds would begin in 2013. Therefore, homeowners will still see a significant decrease on this line item in 2013. The exact amount of the decrease is not known at this time because the final cost of the project has not been determined, nor do we know the amount of grant funding that will be available. However, the cost of the 800 mhz project for a \$200,000 home in Anoka County was approximately \$7.00 per year. That project was 10.2 million dollars over ten years. The current project is projected to be about half the cost of the 800 mhz project.

## What support to we need from cities?

We are seeking the support of Anoka County cities for 1) the legislative change to allow for transparency in the property tax statements regarding the funding of this project; and 2) the update of the public safety records systems. We are not seeking new funding from the cities for this project.

## Questions or Comments?

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