

# County-wide Public Safety Communication System

## Project Background

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has mandated that all public safety UHF/VHF radio systems be narrowbanded from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz by January 1, 2013 due to congestion within this spectrum. Therefore, each public entity including Gordon County that operates a UHF/VHF radio system must meet this federally mandated deadline. Currently, the existing county-wide radio system is old and inefficient with many “dead spots” around the county that reduces public safety communications. By narrowbanding from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz, the county’s radio system coverage area will be even more dramatically decreased.

To meet the federal unfunded mandated deadline of January 1, 2013 **AND** to address the county-wide radio system coverage area, county staff conducted a Request For Proposal (RFP) process during August 2010 to hire an independent radio system consultant to: 1) guide the county through the FCC mandated narrowbanding requirement prior to the deadline, 2) determine how to improve the existing county-wide VHF radio system and its coverage area, and 3) detail the merits and costs of eventually migrating to a 700 MHz or 800 MHz digital radio system in the future. During the commission meeting of October 19, 2010, the county hired TUSA Consulting to accomplish the above tasks.

TUSA studied and evaluated the county’s existing communication system and made recommendations regarding what type of communication system the county needed and could afford. During April 2011, TUSA presented their recommendations and proposed costs to the evaluation committee composed of county staff, Calhoun staff, and many others.

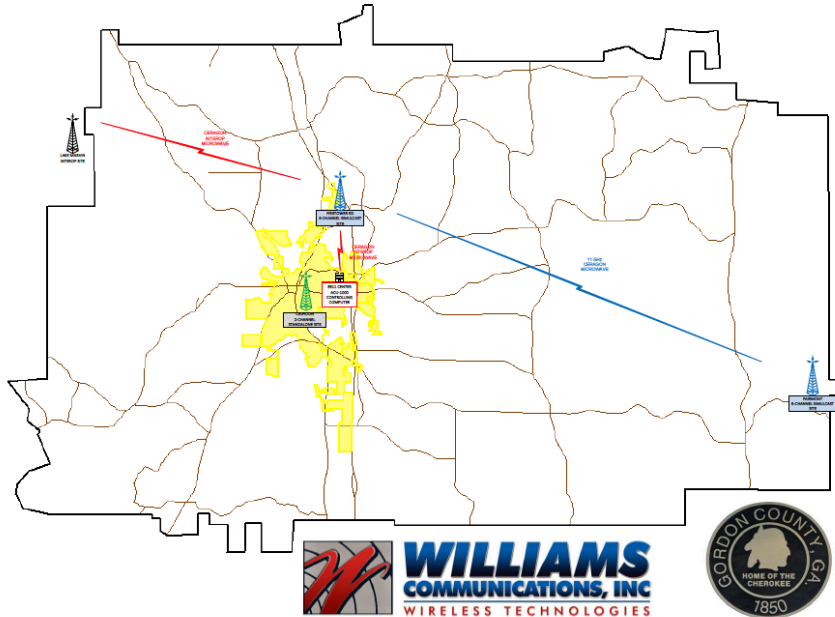
TUSA then prepared a RFP for the recommended communication system and distributed the RFP during August 2011 to public safety radio system installers. The county received only one proposal during the deadline month of November 2011 and that was from Williams Communications located in Tallahassee, Florida. Williams Communications is also the company installing Rome/Floyd County’s \$23M 800 MHz communication system.

TUSA and county staff evaluated that proposal and negotiated terms and pricing with Williams. During January 2012, the county received a final proposed contract from Williams for \$2,385,846 and a 12 month work schedule to install a county-wide VHF simulcast communication system. The Board of Commissioners approved that contract during their February 7, 2012 commission meeting.

## System Overview

- 2 site, 6 channel simulcast system
- 1 simulcast control point
- 1 (2) channel stand alone site at the Calhoun tower site (downtown)
- 9 interoperability ACU-1000 gateways
- 3 site microwave system
- New 230 foot tower at Fire Tower Road site
- New 100 foot tower at Calhoun site (downtown)
- 45 foot extension to the Fairmount tower
- 80 new Kenwood mobile radios
- 25 new Kenwood portable radios
- 7 Harris CS 7000 control stations
- Programming of existing radio (240 mobiles and 407 portables)

## Project Diagram



## Other Costs

- Property Acquisition \$200,000
- TUSA Remaining Consulting Fees \$144,000
- Training Cost \$5,000
- Contingency \$65,154

## Project Schedule

- 2-7-12 Contract Signed
- 2-16-12 Kick-off Meeting
- 3-2-12 Customer Design Review
- 3-14-12 System Orders Placed
- 7-4-12 Factory Staging Begins
- 9-14-12 Equipment Delivered to Gordon County
- 9-26-12 Fire Tower Road Site Ready for Installation
- 9-28-12 Fairmount Site Ready for Installation
- 10-5-12 Calhoun Site Ready for Installation
- 10-17-12 Fire Tower Road & Control Point Installed
- 10-22-12 Jail System Installed
- 10-30-12 Fairmount Site Installed and Calhoun Site Installed
- 11-1-12 Radio Installation Begins
- 11-15-12 Radio Installation Completed
- 11-23-12 Functional Acceptance Test Begins
- 11-30-12 System Acceptance
- 12-12-12 System Cutover
- 12-15-12 Existing Radios Reprogrammed
- 12-31-12 New System Working and Warranty Period Begins
- 1-10-13 Removal of Old System Equipment Completed
- 1-18-13 Final System Documentation Submitted and Project Completed