

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF FORT BEND

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN FORT BEND COUNTY AND
VFD**

This Interlocal Agreement (“Agreement”) entered into by and between Fort Bend County, Texas, a body corporate and politic, acting herein by and through its Commissioners Court (“County”), and VFD , an incorporated volunteer fire department (“VFD”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County operates a P25 Public Radio System and is duly licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) for operation of same; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to accommodate additional Radio Units on its Radio System which is managed and controlled by the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Office; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to accommodate the VFD’s Radio Units on a maintenance plan contracted by the County with a private vendor; and

WHEREAS, the VFD desires to use County’s Radio System to communicate among its various Radio Units on a Primary Dispatch System; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of County has duly authorized this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of VFD has duly authorized this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is made pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 352.002 which shall promote fire safety in Fort Bend County.

SECTION ONE
DEFINITIONS

- 1.01** “P25 Compliant Radio” is Project 25, or P25 radio is a standard that defines a form of interoperable digital two-way wireless communications products. The P25 radio system was developed in North America with state, local and federal representatives and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) governance.
- 1.02** “Primary Dispatch System” – A communications system upon which the VFD, its agents, employees or assigns rely primarily when it desires to or attempts the engagement of radio communications or radio transmissions of energy among its radio units.
- 1.03** “Priority Access” – An assigned level of system access which determines the choice of access to the radio system between two or more units seeking use simultaneously.
- 1.04** “Radio System” – A P25 Public Radio System Radio System owned by the County, and licensed by the FCC, that enables the engagement of radio communications or radio transmissions of energy via radio units in accordance with technical specifications.
- 1.05** “Radio Unit” – Mobile, stationary or portable radio communication units communicating among themselves at certain air wave frequencies.
- 1.06** “Systems Code Identification Number” – An identification number that allows radio units to gain access to the Radio System thereby enabling the radio units to communicate among themselves at certain air wave frequencies.

SECTION TWO
OBLIGATIONS OF COUNTY

- 2.01** The County agrees that during the term of this Agreement it shall:
- A. Allow the VFD to have access to its Radio System to engage in radio communications among its Radio Units as a Primary Dispatch System and provide VFD with the same level of Priority Access provided to County.
 - B. Provide to the VFD a Systems Code Identification Number that will access the County's Radio System, thereby providing a Primary Dispatch System for the VFD's Radio Units.
 - C. Observe and abide by all applicable statutes, laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to those of the FCC.
 - D. In the event the VFD notifies the County pursuant to paragraph that any one or more of its Radio Units listed herein have become lost or stolen, the County will take any reasonable steps necessary to prevent such lost or stolen Radio Units from gaining access to the Radio System and will attempt to disable the lost or stolen unit.
- 2.02** County authorizes the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office to supervise and manage the P25 Public Radio System on behalf of County which shall include the authority to increase or decrease the number of radios permitted on the system in order to maximize operational efficiency.

SECTION THREE
OBLIGATIONS OF VFD

- 3.01** The VFD agrees that during the term of this Agreement it shall:
- A. Use only County approved equipment on the Radio System. During the term of this Agreement, the TDMA and Radio Authentication approved equipment is that equipment that complies with Project 25 Compliance Assessment Program. The County reserves the right to determine and approve equipment to be used on the radio system. The County reserves the right to change or modify this list at any time with written notification to the subscriber.
 - B. In the event that any one or more of the Radio Units listed in Exhibit A to this Agreement becomes lost or stolen, the VFD shall notify the County of same within twenty-four hours that the VFD knows or has reason to know that such Radio Unit or Units have become lost or stolen.
 - C. Use the System Code Identification Number described herein to access the County's Radio System as a Primary Dispatch System.
 - D. To observe and abide by all applicable statutes, laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to those of the FCC.
 - E. Recognize that applicable FCC and other statutes, laws, rules and regulations may change from time to time and that accordingly the County, in its sole discretion, has the right without liability to modify this Agreement to comply with any such changes subject to the other terms of this Agreement.
 - F. Provide accurate inventory of all agency radios no later than each March 1 and upon request by County
 - G. Must request advance, written approval from County to increase radio inventory.
 - H. VFD agrees that it shall not degrade or negatively impact the radio operations of the Interoperable Communications System, any other participating agency, or any other authorized user of the System.

SECTION FOUR
ASSIGNABILITY

- 4.01 This Agreement is for the benefit of the VFD, its officers, agents, contractors and employees, quasi-governmental agencies and it shall not be assigned in whole or in part by the VFD to any third party without prior written consent of the County. If requested in writing, the billing can be itemized to reflect different agencies or departments.

SECTION FIVE
PAYMENT OF FEES

- 5.01 The VFD shall pay the following costs for use of the County's radios:
- A. Monthly Use Fees: A monthly fee of \$12.75 per radio.
 - B. The County may change the monthly service fee by giving the VFD written notice of the increase at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date on which the increased fees are to become effective. Written documentation will be provided upon request to the VFD explaining the increase
 - C. Repairs:
 - 1. Any radio requiring repair may be sent for service to the current County vendor at the Sheriff's discretion; and
 - 2. County will advise repairing agency or vendor to invoice VFD for the cost of the repair.
- 5.02 The VFD shall make any payments due and payable to the County under this Agreement out of its current revenues.
- 5.03 The County shall invoice the VFD for the monthly fee in the following manner:
- A. The County will invoice air time for the three months prior and including the month of the bill.
 - B. Radios added during the 1st and 15th day of a given month will be charged air time for the entire month. Radios added after the 15th day of a given month will not be charged air time for that month and air time will be charged beginning with the following month
 - C. The County will invoice service contract fees for the three months succeeding the month of the bill.
 - D. In the event the VFD increases the total number of radios assigned, it shall increase its monthly payment to reflect such increase. The increase in the number of units shall be reflected pro rata in the next monthly payment following the month of the increase in units.
 - E. Any decrease in the number of units shall be reflected in the VFD's payments in the same manner as described above for increases in the number of units.
- 5.04 If County determines that the Radio System is substantially unavailable to the VFD during any billing period, the County shall make a reasonable adjustment of the fee provided for by this section.

SECTION SIX
TERM AND TERMINATION

- 6.01 The term of this Agreement shall commence upon signature of County and end on **September 30, 2015**. This Agreement shall thereafter automatically renew for additional one year terms unless terminated by either party. All renewals are subject to the price adjustment in Section 5.02 of this Agreement.
- 6.02 This Agreement shall terminate immediately if all or substantially all of the licenses or other necessary authorizations held by either the County or the VFD are revoked by the FCC or any successor agency.
- 6.03 The Agreement may be terminated by either Party by providing 30 days' notice of the intent to terminate to the other Party. In the event of termination, VFD shall still remit payment for services rendered by County.
- 6.04 Upon termination, all radios shall be returned to County no later than 48 hours of the time and date the notice to terminate was received.

SECTION SEVEN
NOTICE

- 7.01 Any and all notices or communications required or permitted under this Agreement shall in writing and delivered in person or mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested, or may be transmitted by fax as follows:

To County: Fort Bend County
Attention: County Judge
301 Jackson, 7th Floor
Richmond, Texas 77469
Fax No. (281) 341-8609

To VFD:

- 7.02 Either party may change its notice address in accordance with this section.
- 7.03 Any notice hereunder shall be effective upon receipt.

SECTION EIGHT
MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

- 8.01 No modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is made in writing and is approved and executed by the authorized representatives of the parties hereto, except as provided above in the case of a change in FCC rules or regulations.

SECTION NINE
COVERAGE

- 9.01 The VFD acknowledges that one hundred percent coverage of any area at all times is improbable. There may be adverse propagation conditions, such as short-term unpredictable meteorological effects and sky wave interference from distant stations that can interrupt the Radio System at times. Other causes beyond reasonable control of the County are motor ignition and other electrical noise that could be minimized by corrective devices at the VFD's expense. Any surveys, studies, research or any other measures taken to ensure the adequacy of coverage provided to the VFD herein shall be the sole responsibility of the VFD.

SECTION TEN
DEFAULT

- 10.01 If the VFD fails to make any payment of any sum due or fails to perform as required by any other provision hereunder, and continues in such failure for fifteen days after written notice has been sent by County to VFD, the VFD shall be deemed in default under this Agreement.
- 10.02 In the event of default, the County has the right to immediately terminate this Agreement, retain all payments made hereunder that are due and owing to the County pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, and deny the VFD any service provided by the County under this Agreement. Each and all of the rights and remedies of the County hereunder are cumulative to and not in lieu of each and every other such right and remedy and every right and remedy afforded at law and equity.

SECTION ELEVEN
INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS

- 11.01 **INDEMNIFICATION: THE VFD AGREES TO AND SHALL INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS AND DEFEND THE COUNTY, ITS OFFICIALS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LOSSES, DAMAGES, CAUSES OF ACTION, SUITS AND LIABILITY OF EVERY KIND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ATTORNEY'S FEES (WHETHER 1ST PARTY OR 3RD PARTY) AND RELATED COSTS, FOR PERSONAL INJURY DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION OR LOSS ARISING OUT OF OR CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VFD'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, WHERE SUCH PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION OR LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE VFD'S SOLE NEGLIGENCE OR ITS SOLE INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION OR WHERE SUCH**

PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, OR LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE JOINT NEGLIGENCE OF THE VFD AND ANY OTHER PERSON (OTHER THAN THE COUNTY OR ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES), OR ENTITY; OR THE JOINT INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION OF THE VFD AND OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY (OTHER THAN THE COUNTY OR ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES).

- 11.02 The VFD shall provide the County with general liability insurance covering both the County and the VFD for liabilities relating to the use of the Radio System. The insurance shall be with carriers and in policy limits acceptable to the County
- 11.03 The VFD shall provide the County's Risk Management Department with a copy of the proposed insurance within ten (10) days of the effective date hereof. Acceptance of an original certificate of insurance acceptable to the County shall be a condition precedent to the VFD's access to the Radio System.

**SECTION TWELVE
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES**

- 12.01 The parties agree to promulgate mutually acceptable written administrative guidelines relating to the use and operation of the Radio System and Radio Units. Both parties agree to use their best efforts to observe and abide by these written administrative guidelines.

**SECTION THIRTEEN
GENERAL**

- 13.01 This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement of the parties and supercedes all prior offers, negotiations and agreements. If any provision of this Agreement shall, at any time and to any extent be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby. This Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of all the respective heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.
- 13.02 The waiver by a party hereto of a breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.
- 13.03 Confidentiality. Information that identifies the configuration of components of or the operation of the System and would allow unauthorized access to or unlawful disruption of the System shall be maintained as a closed record if allowed by applicable state laws.
- 13.04 Force Majeure. The parties agree that no party shall be held responsible for interruptions of service due to the forces of nature, war, manmade disasters, or other such acts beyond the control of the agencies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties put their hands to this instrument on the dates indicated.

FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

By: _____
Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

Reviewed:

Troy E. Nehls, FBC Sheriff

VFD

By: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk