



Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC)



SRAC Full Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held virtually through Zoom.
September 7, 2023 – 11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Chief Brian Clark, Norton PD
Chief Thomas Lynch, Franklin PD
Chief Michael Kelleher, Foxborough FD
Joan Cooper-Zack, South Shore Hospital
Brian Evangelista, Region V EMS
Stacy Lane, Norwood Health Dept
Chief David Guillemette, Harwich PD
Chief Scott Fournier, Berkley FD
Lt. Bob Stephanian, PCSO
Kevin Sweet, Wrentham TA
Mike Guterrez, MMA
Mike Lambert, BAT

Guests Present

Taylor Sulik, SEMRECC
Greg Arpin, MVLEC
Mike Walker, Barnstable Cty
Chip Reilly, Barnstable Cty
Joe Hattabaugh, MEMA
Rob O'Brien, Canton FD
Dr. Valkanas, Canton FD

Support Staff Present

Todd Castro, SRPEDD
Kevin Ham, SRPEDD
Grant King, SRPEDD
Kayla Toner, EOPSS

Members Absent: Michael Courville, Dartmouth; Chief Mark Thompson, Scituate PD; Robert Verdone, SE MA Regional 911 Dist.; Chief John Kelley, Wareham FD

1. **Roll Call:** Mr. Ham read the roll and attendance was taken.
2. **Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2023, meeting minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to approve the August 10, 2023, meeting minutes. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. A roll call was completed.
3. **Project Update/Fiduciary Report: FFY 20, 21 & 22:** Mr. Castro mentioned they are currently operating under FFY 20, 21, & 22. Most of the unspent funding resides within the Interoperability line item. More time is going to be needed to work with the Interop consultant. Mr. Castro mentioned that FY 20 is set to expire at the end of December. Therefore, it is his recommendation that the remaining balance of \$102,000 be allocated toward shovel ready projects. He mentioned that a Planning meeting was held this past Tuesday, and two emerging needs came up for discussion. One is that METROLEC and SEMLEC are in dire need for communication headsets, push to talk wiring, and wiring connectors. Mr. Castro recommend to the Council that the LEC team equipment needs to be considered and to utilize the \$102,000 to pay for the cost of obtaining that equipment. Additionally, there's a large amount of unallocated funding attributed to FY 21, which is set to expire at the end of July of 2024.
 - **FFY 21 Drone Project:** Mr. Castro explained the Drone project in further detail below.



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- **Plymouth County Drone Team M30 Tether \$16,500:** Mr. Castro mentioned it has been determined through discussions at the recent Planning Subcommittee Meeting that a single drone tether was needed and would be provided to the Plymouth County Drone Team at a cost of \$16,500. It was noted that all of the Drone Teams lack the ability to tether drones. Motion: Motion made and unanimously passed to approve the purchase of one M30 Drone Tether for the Plymouth County Drone Team out of FY21, B., Drone, Unallocated Line Item.
- **Thermographer Class October Update:** Mr. Castro mentioned the Thermographer Class is coming up at the Lakeville Police Department and one is seat still available. Please reach out if you would like to attend. This is a level one public safety thermographer training certification course.
- **FireCat Pickup:** Mr. Castro mentioned that the FireCat is ready to be picked up. He stated he spoke to Chief Soffayer yesterday and he is going to coordinate to schedule the pickup along with others.
- **Crowd Science Hyannis Class:** Mr. Castro indicated fortunately, we were able to hold the first class, but the second class is going to have to be canceled. He mentioned that he will work with Chief Kelleher to try and determine another vendor for another Crowd Science class at a later time.
- **Towable Exhaust Fan Update:** Mr. Ham mentioned that the towable exhaust fan was delivered yesterday. This will be housed at the Middleboro Fire Department through Chief Thompson. He mentioned that Chief Thompson will be showing the fan in different counties as well and the dates will be available at the Fire Chief's meetings if any would like to come.
- **Cape Cod Traffic Barriers:** Mr. Ham mentioned that many years ago, when the original Cape Cod traffic plan was drawn up, the Council purchased large metal jersey barriers that are about 40-60 feet long. The idea is that they would be stationed at each part of an area of the bridge, and on each on and off ramp. The barriers have handles on them and they drop wheels down to move them. Over the years, they were not housed properly, and they are now non-functional. He mentioned we do have a use for them via the Technical Rescue Teams, and we are looking for support to get them removed. Mr. Ham mentioned they are looking for support to have the barriers taken care of and meet with those on the original MOU. Mr. Ham mentioned that he would like EOPSS to help with this as well. Chief Clark mentioned that this was discussed at the Planning meeting, and all were in favor of the Technical Rescue teams using them. He also spoke to EOPSS, and they supported it as well. Motion: Motion made and unanimously passed to support the removal of the Cape Cod Traffic Barriers and to work with MassDOT/EOPSS/Technical Rescue Teams for their permanent removal. Barriers will be given to the Technical Rescue Teams for training purposes.



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- **Bridgewater Cache Project:** Mr. Castro mentioned that Mr. Ham has reached out on multiple occasions on what equipment needs to be repaired. The Council has appropriated \$26,254.28 from FY 20. He stated we are looking for the Council's support one way or another in terms of when we're going to abandon this project or just push it to FY 21.

4. **MAPC Report:** No report.

5. **EOPSS Report:** Ms. Toner mentioned that she has received FEMA approval on EHPs for IRRAT training in the southeast. FEMA also approved Joint Base Cape Cod as a recognized training facility. She mentioned the fiduciary has received approval from a PJ for hiring two Cybersecurity interns. Ms. Toner mentioned the FireCat is in their docket, and we are waiting to make payment on it. She also thanked Mr. Ham and Mr. Castro for all their hard work this summer.

6. **Training & Exercise/Planning:**

- **DPW vacancy:** Lt. Stephanian mentioned that he has received one application from Jamie Ponte, Commissioner of New Bedford Public Infrastructure. Mr. Ham shared his screen and mentioned that he will send his information to the Council after this meeting. Chief Clark stated that we can discuss this at the next meeting. This vote will be tabled for the next meeting, so everyone will have time to review.
- **IRRAT Update:** Mr. Castro mentioned Chief Soffayer is working on developing a schedule for the IRRAT trainings.

7. **Fire Services:** Chief Kelleher

- **Roll Call vote to appoint Fire Services member:** Mr. Castro mentioned we did a mass email notification regarding this vacancy. Four candidates had applied. Mr. Ham shared his screen with the Council and shared with them the names of the candidates.

Chief Kelleher mentioned that he has spoken to the candidates, and he believes that Chief Smith from the Falmouth Fire Department is the best candidate. He thanked all the other Chief's, as they were great candidates. However, geography wise, this was the best choice.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to have Chief Smith from the Falmouth Fire Department serve as a Fire Services representative on the council.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- **Technical Rescue Dive Team Suit Seal Repairs:** Mr. Castro explained that it has come to the Council's attention that the Technical Rescue Teams are in need of dive suit repairs. He



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mentioned they are in need of having 18 head, 18 neck and 18 wrist seals repaired. He mentioned the cost of the repair is \$4,200. Mr. Castro requested the council reimburse them at the cost of \$4,200 out of the FY 22, Asset Repair line item.

Motion: To reimburse the Southeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team up to \$4,200 to replace 18 head, neck, and wrist seals from FFY22, Asset Repair, D.02. Unanimously Approved

- **Blood Transfusion Project:**

Dr. Valkanas explained the Blood Transfusion project in detail. He mentioned this is a new asset introduced to Massachusetts to only EMS. Locally, it'd be a mutual aid asset for the daily operations to towns around the Canton area. That would also be used and available for callers in force protection for law enforcement and fire rescue events. He mentioned this has been used in the hospitals for over 100 years for uncontrolled bleeding. In the event of uncontrolled hemorrhage, this is a lifesaving bridge until definitive surgical care can be made.

Chief Clark mentioned one thing that was mentioned at the planning meeting was that you will be able to intercept people on their way to the hospital as well. He mentioned that he feels this is important for people coming from the south and to Boston. Chief Clark mentioned that this still needs initial approval, and if it does not get approved, then we should act quickly to get the program up and running.

Chief Kelleher asked if Canton did purchase the items for this project, can the town get reimbursed. Mr. Ham said yes, they could.

Motion: A motion made to approve \$30,000 for blood transfusion project from FFY20 Fire Services Line E, Not Allocated. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

8. **Interoperability:** No report.

9. **LEC:** Chief Lynch mentioned they did have a particular barricade incident in which the individuals successfully had a house on fire for four different occasions. He mentioned it is great that the Firecat is coming soon and can be put into service. He mentioned it will be a great help.

- **Command Post Discussion:** Mr. Castro mentioned at the Planning Meeting that the members discussed purchasing a new Command Post. He mentioned he received a quote for approximately \$1.3 million. He mentioned they are looking to refine the quote, to find out exactly what the cost of replacing the METRO LEC Command post would be. He stated they are looking to formulate a command post project



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team to refine what is needed and to develop a scope for the project. Mr. Castro mentioned the current vehicle is a 2004 that has hundreds of hours of generator run-time and has been repaired multiple times. Chief Lynch mentioned next year it will be 20 years old and the Council has invested a lot in the vehicle. He stated that this is a regional vehicle, and it is time to replace this one. Mr. Ham asked if the Council has anyone, they can recommend to the Command Post team to send them their names please. Mr. Castro stated this is a big investment and it will take time. Chief Clark mentioned SEMLEC and some from fire should be on this team.

- **Formulation of Command Post Project Team: A motion was made and seconded to formulate a Command Post Project Team to discuss the purchase of a new regional Command Post vehicle. Unanimously approved. .**
- **Motion:** Motion to approve up to \$102,000 for METROLEC and SEMLEC comms headsets and related equipment from FFY20 Line B.02 Interop Consultant.

Mr. Stephanian mentioned the way the motions came out of the Planning meeting was just for full headsets for Metro and essentially, retrofit kits for SEMELC. He asked if this broad of a motion going to allow if the \$102,000 allows for a full headset. Mr. Castro mentioned that we can amend the motion. He mentioned we can split the amount and have 20 per teams and make it even for both teams.

Mr. Stephanian asked to have the motion amended to read "A motion to amend it as written to purchase up to \$102,000 for METROLEC and SEMLEC to have new communication headsets and related equipment."

A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase up to \$102,000 for METROLEC and SEMLEC to have new communication headsets and related equipment. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

10. **Cybersecurity:** Please see below.

- **Formation of Cybersecurity Committee:** Mr. Sulik mentioned that he has been working with Mr. Verdone and Mr. Courville regarding the formation of a Cybersecurity Subcommittee. members. He mentioned they has looking at himself, Mr. Verdone, Mr. Courville, and Capt. Anthony Gould who is from Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County Sheriff's Department, as he's also a member of the US Secret Service Cybersecurity Task Force. Mr. Sulik mentioned maybe one person to join as well.
- **Cybersecurity Interns:** Mr. Sulik mentioned that he has heard back from EOPSS, and the project has been approved. He has met with Mr. Ham and Mr. Castro to discuss the logistics of this project. He will reach out to Bridgewater State to conduct in-person interviews. It is his hope to have them in October sometime.



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11. **EMS:** No report.
12. **Education:** No Report
13. **Emergency Management:** Please see below.
 - **Roll call Vote on Emergency Management member:** Chief Clark mentioned that Chip Riley was the candidate for the Emergency Management member.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to have Chip Riley as from Emergency Management as representation on the SRAC Council. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
14. **Regional Transportation:** No report.
15. **Public Health:** Ms. Lane discussed last month the migrants entering the state. She indicated that the state cannot keep up. The migrants are coming to Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Right to Shelter Program. The family shelter system can't handle the influx of migrants. She mentioned on the last DPH call we are getting up to 6,000. DPH is now doing a call every two weeks to give updates, because it varies from community to community. The state is just scrambling to find resources for the overwhelming number of migrants that are entering Massachusetts.
16. **Hospitals:** Ms. Cooper-Zack mentioned that we are in the same condition with hospitals at high capacity. She mentioned that COVID is still out there and to just be careful. She also mentioned there is a big hurricane coming as well.
 - **Formulation of Health/Hospital Committee:** Ms. Cooper-Zack stated that many are coming back from vacations from the summer and once all are back, we hope to get the committee moving.
17. **Public Works:** No report.
18. **Government Administration:** Mr. Sweet mentioned the MMA will be hosting a quarterly meeting that's dedicated to public safety. It's part of the Manager's Public Safety Subcommittee and it will be held on September 14th at Lake Pearl in Wrentham. He mentioned there will be discussion on sharing their experiences with current recruitment practices and some initiatives at the high school and college level with regards to outreach and programming. This will get managers updated on those issues that we're all facing in all our communities
19. **MEMA:** No report.



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20. **Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting:** None

21. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** The next meeting will be on October 5, 2023, at 11 AM. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

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