

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on January 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson  
Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Kara Hahn  
Legislator William Spencer  
Legislator Monica Martinez  
Legislator Kevin McCaffrey

**Also in Attendance:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - District No. 15  
Legislator Sarah Anker - District No. 6  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Robert Lipp - Director/Budget Review Office  
Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning  
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Legislator Gregory  
Sean Rogan - Aide to Legislator McCaffrey  
Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn  
Amy Ellis - Aide to Legislator Anker  
Katelyn Vaiana - Intern/Legislator Hahn's Office  
Elizabeth Dovell - Aide to Legislator Anker  
Katie Horst - County Executive Assistant  
Lisa Santeramo - County Executive Assistant  
Patrice Dhlpolsky - Director/SC Probation Department  
Mike Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Bill Doherty - Lieutenant/Chief of Dept's Office/SCPD  
Mike Postel - SCPD/Director of Communications  
Tracy Pollack - Suffolk County Police Department  
Charles Vetter - Suffolk County Police Department  
John Dougherty - Suffolk County Police Department  
Jason Smagin - County Attorney's Office  
Ed Moltzen - FRES/Assistant to the Commissioner  
Ed Schneyer - Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services  
Matt Porter - Unit President/Probation Officer's Association  
Bob Holley - Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy  
Ed Johnston - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy  
John Pavacic - Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission  
Robert Kutch - VEEB Board Nominee  
Noel DiGerolamo - President/PBA  
Jim Roden - SOA  
Patricia Lenehan - Suffolk County Resident

All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

***(\*The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. \*)***

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think we'll start the Public Safety Committee meeting. If everyone could please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator McCaffrey.

***(\*Salutation\*)***

A moment of silence for those who protect our country at home and abroad.

***(\*Moment of Silence\*)***

Thank you. Okay. Good morning. We do have two cards, so we'll start with those, and our first speaker is Patricia Lenehan.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Good morning, and happy New Year. I'm addressing this question to Legislator Anker. You -- last month, when I was at this meeting and I was talking to you about the bill that I was trying to introduce, and you told me to call your office and set up an appointment, I did that, and I was told by your assistant, Maria Dom -- how do you pronounce her last name?

**LEGISLATOR ANKER:**

Domenici.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Domenici, that to get an appointment with you, I'd have a better chance of seeing the Pope. I didn't find it humorous. I laughed about it, but I thought you let her know we were supposed to have this meeting.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Maria is no longer in my office, so I apologize.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

I want it on record that that's how, you know, I'm being treated here, because I also had a meeting with Ms. Martinez.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Mrs. Lenehan?

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I would recommend, this is a time for you to make a statement.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Yeah. I just want it on record.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The Legislator can ask you questions afterwards, but --

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Not on a bet, I wouldn't --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Do you want to have a conversation with --

**MS. LENEHAN:**

What I'd like to know is what's going on in Brentwood with the problems we had on -- with all the drugs on the buses.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. This is not a question and --

**MS. LENEHAN:**

This won't be done here either?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No. If you have questions for the Legislator, you can ask her later, but this is an opportunity for you to give a statement on a specific issue.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So, if you have something that you'd like to speak to us on --

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Yeah, I do.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I'd like to address her concern, because it is a -- it's a public safety issue, and it's everyone concerned in Suffolk County.

Brentwood is not my District. My District covers Mount Sinai to Wading River, Ridge, Middle Island and Coram, but it's an absolute concern.

And I want to tell you a few things that I've done. And again, yes, I do want to work with you, and I apologize about the miscommunication, so -- and after this meeting, I would like to discuss further.

So there's a few issues. I don't want to take too much time, because there's a little bit on the agenda, but the problem is -- and there's so many problems related to drug addiction and addiction in general. We can go through the pharmaceutical companies, who have not followed up, who've given -- overprescribed. We can talk about the doctors who have overprescribed. We can talk about the public safety, and nabbing these drug sellers right away. Rehabilitation, there's not enough facilities on Long Island and just in general across the country.

This is an epidemic and we're all -- everyone you see here, we're doing everything we can to try to stop it. There's so much that has gone out of control. And I'm looking forward to working with people like yourself and coming up with better ways.

Yeah, I've had a number of drug awareness programs throughout my school district, because I pretty much focus in my area, but I also was the PR Director for West Islip and also Longwood District, prior to being a Legislator, and I know inside and out. I am a mother of three kids. I know, I understand your pain, but we have to continue --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sarah. Sarah, this is not what Public Portion is about.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Right. But I do want to address your concern, though, relating to public safety and --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Can we please do this -- you know, you can have some time to meet with her and talk to her.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Right. And I do want to let you know that I am very concerned. I'm very much looking forward to working with you. But thank you for coming here, Ms. Lenehan.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

Okay. I still have 26 seconds. Legislator Martinez -- Martinez, I'm sorry.

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

I appreciate it.

**MS. LENEHAN:**

I heard from your assistant and we set up an appointment, but my granddaughter was in a car accident and had surgery that day. I tried to call your office. She told me that you would be back to me the week of -- right after New Year's. I'm still waiting. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Next, John Pavacic.

**MR. PAVACIC:**

Good morning, Chairwoman Browning, Vice Chair Calarco, and Members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is John Pavacic. I am the Executive Director of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission. I am appearing before you today to testify on behalf of and to express support for Introductory Resolution 1024 in regard to the establishment and operation of a brush truck training course, and the development of an agreement in that regard between Suffolk County and the Commission. You should have received copies of my statement. In addition, there is a packet which you should have received that looks like this, and I'll talk about that in a few more minutes.

On Long Island, and particularly in Suffolk County, brush trucks are utilized by local fire departments as the standard means of attacking and suppressing wildfires, known locally as brush fires. These trucks are generally large, heavy all-wheel drive units that work off-road and enter heavily wooded areas in order to directly access areas affected by active fire. Brush trucks can carry a number of firefighters at any one time, and contain a complement of water tanks, nozzles and other equipment necessary for fire attack. However, heretofore, there generally has been no formalized training on Long Island in the operation of brush trucks. Oftentimes, for some operators, their first experience driving a brush truck occurs at the scene of an actual brush fire.

The need for establishing a formal brush truck training program has been highlighted during Suffolk County wildfires over the past 20 years, some of which have caused the destruction of or damage to brush trucks and inflicted injuries on firefighters, including burns. After the Crescent Bow wildfire of April of 2012, which occurred in the Ridge and Manorville communities, the Commission's New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy developed a formal brush truck training program. To date, this program has been successfully conducted in the Fall of 2013, Spring and Fall of 2014 in Suffolk County.

The program has been designed with five major goals in mind: Enhance firefighter safety. Increase and enhance the ability to protect lives and property. Increase fire suppression effectiveness. Reduce impacts on equipment, including -- especially brush trucks. Reduce potential environmental damage.

For a number of years, there have been discussions about the potential for establishing a permanent dedicated brush truck course and training facility somewhere in Suffolk County, as currently there are no such facilities located anywhere in Suffolk County, on Long Island, or in the Northeast. Members of the local fire service have long spoke about the need for such a facility and endorse this concept. The Commission, in fact, last week adopted a unanimous resolution in support of this project. Accordingly, the Commission's New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy would establish an on-the-ground field route on the Suffolk County property, would develop and provide a curriculum and training materials, would provide qualified instructors, and would conduct a training program and operate the field facility.

The proposed course is optimized by its proximity to Suffolk County's own Fire Academy, Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, and its central location and ease of access.

And just a quick overview of the materials here. The first is a -- first in your packet is a synopsis of the brush truck courses we provided. The second is a -- is a brochure that we put together. It's followed by pictures of the actual brush truck training program, followed by some media coverage, and then finally followed by a copy of a condensed version of the training curriculum, and, finally, the Commission's own resolution in support.

I should note that Suffolk County has been a steadfast cosponsor and supporter of the brush truck training programs for which I already referred. In fact, since the creation of the Commission's academy in 1998, the County's been a long time sponsoring entity of this Academy's many programs and continues to be a leader of both this Academy and its parent Wildfire Task Force. We're very grateful for Suffolk County's continuing support and sponsorship, and believe the proposal before you can be viewed as a natural progression of this very strong mutual relationship.

I would also, at this time, like to acknowledge the fact that I would not be standing before you, nor would this project be before you, without the good work of the late John Urevich, the prior Chair of our Academy and Wildfire Task Force. It was through his toil, dedication, hard work and vast experience that this project has come to fruition.

The Commission believes this cooperative effort will greatly aid brush fire-fighting efforts on Long Island, and will greatly improve the safety and well-being of our dedicated firefighters, the public and property located throughout Long Island in proximity to natural areas. The Commission wholeheartedly endorses this proposal and looks forward to working closely with Suffolk County in undertaking this endeavor in the very near future. Accordingly, the committee support of this project would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and I would welcome any questions you may have.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, John. Does anyone have any questions at this time?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I just have one quick question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Good morning, John. Good to see. I have one quick question for you, and maybe, perhaps, a better question for Bob Holley from VEEB, and that's just the particular location. I guess we're building this -- we're looking to build this over in Yaphank near the existing training facility the County has, because I know that Brookhaven Town has Firemen's Park, and they have brush truck trails in Firemen's Park already. My local fire department, Patchogue, actually hosts that competition there every Fall. But that's -- I guess the reason for the location is we wanted to put it next to our existing facilities so it could be in conjunction with our existing school.

**MR. PAVACIC:**

That's correct. And, in fact, I believe that what Patchogue does is more of a competition.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yeah, it's a competition.

**MR. PAVACIC:**

More on dry pavement and not in the actual wooded experience that we've been able to provide. One of the benefits of using the County facility is that it approximates exactly the kinds of actual woodland conditions that the firefighters can be encountering. There are more restrictions on the Brookhaven facility, precisely because it's located in the Central Pine Barrens in the core.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yeah. There's existing trails, but they got to be very careful not to knock a tree down.

**MR. PAVACIC:**

That's right. That's right. One of the advantages of the County's site is that it's actually located just outside the Central Pine Barrens.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. Sounds good. Thanks, John.

**MR. PAVACIC:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, John. And I don't have any more cards. Do we have any more people in the room who would like to speak? No? No one? Okay.

So we'll go to the agenda. And the first resolution -- actually, we do have an appointment, but we've only got two before that. We'll hold off.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

First is tabled resolution, **1949 - To enforce domestic violence orders of protection using GPS monitoring (Sponsor: Leg. Hahn).** Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

I do need one more cycle, I hate to say it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So motion to table.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. A motion to table, and a second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: Tabled 6-0-0-0).**

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

**2160 - To educate domestic violence victims about their risk of repeated violence (Sponsor: Leg. Hahn).** Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Sorry to say, I do need one more cycle on this one. So motion to table.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Motion to table, Legislator Hahn; second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: Tabled 6-0-0-0).**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Okay. **Introductory Resolution (2166) appointing Robert Kutch as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Sponsor: Leg. D'Amato).**

Mr. Kutch, you're here. Would you like to come up and introduce yourself? Tell us a little bit about you.

**MR. KUTCH:**

Good morning, everyone. I'm a very proud resident of Suffolk County for the past 40 years, proud member of the Deer Park Fire Department for 40 years, 5 years in another fire department in Nassau County prior to my marriage and moving to Suffolk County. I have been a retired school teacher for the past eight years now, maybe nine. I lose track of that, which is a great thing. But was a Technology Education Instructor for Seaford School District for 33 years. Within the fire service, I'm a past Chief, past Officer, went through the ranks of the Line Officers, past Chief, past Commissioner.

If anyone has any questions, I'd be more than happy to answer them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, I don't. I've heard very strong support for you. Does anyone have any questions? No? Okay. Well, with that, I guess I'll make a motion to approve. Second?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Spencer?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

(Nodded).

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? You're approved. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-1 – Not Present: Leg. Hahn).**

**MR. KUTCH:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Congratulations, and you don't need to come on Tuesday.

**MR. KUTCH:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. Okay. **2167 - Establishing County policy against school-zone camera program (Sponsor: Gregory).** I guess Legislator Gregory is not here. I'll make the motion to approve.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).**

**2168 - Reappointing Dennis Magerle as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Sponsor: William Spencer).** This is a reappointment, so he doesn't need to be here. Motion, Legislator Spencer.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Yeah. One of our longest serving fire department members.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Use the mic.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Oh, I'm sorry.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

We need to get you on the record.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

All right. Dennis has been quite a staple in our community and in the firefighting community, and he's expressed an interest. He feels he has a lot to continue to offer, and he has my full support, and we put forth this resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you. So you made the motion, I'll second it. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. *(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).*

**2180 - Appropriating funds in connection with the 700/800 MHz Trunked Radio Communication System upgrade (CP 3244) (Sponsor: County Executive).** I make a motion to approve; second, Legislator Calarco. And do we have someone who can give us some information on this, what this is? Okay. There was a few questions, a couple of Legislators who are not here, especially on the East End. I know you're familiar with the meeting that occurred out there. And is this the Motorola infrastructure upgrades?

**MR. POSTEL:**

Yes, Madam Chair, this is the Motorola upgrade for the existing County's trunk radio system. I spoke with Mr. Stype yesterday -- I'm sorry, Friday, from the Legislator's Office, and he asked me a bunch of questions, and I'm going to be providing some additional information for them by email, so that he can disseminate that to the East -- our East End partners, specifically the Police Chiefs and the other municipalities on the East End, to provide them the information that they were requesting regarding funding and how the project was going to be paid for, etcetera.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Because I know Legislator Krupski had asked about the radios for the various fire departments that do -- is this going to include providing radios for them, or is that -- they have to pay for those?

**MR. POSTEL:**

The project is upgrading and/or replacing any County-owned radio equipment for any County department. An agency that has purchased radios on their own, whether it be a fire department or local municipality that participates on the radio system, is responsible for the upgrade or replacement of that radio.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. But I thought there was a radio or some kind of a communication device that we provided to all of our volunteers.

**MR. POSTEL:**

You are correct, Madam Chair. That was provided through Suffolk County Fire Rescue, and since those radios were purchased through County funds, those radios will be upgraded as part of the program.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So that still is going to happen?

**MR. POSTEL:**

But if -- just to clarify for you, if the ABC Fire Company purchased a radio with their funding, they have to replace or upgrade that radio with their funding as well.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Aren't they, most of them, on this system anyway? Weren't they buying the radios to go

with the 800 megahertz?

**MR. POSTEL:**

There are a lot that have purchased radios already to come on board to the 800 system. Most of them do have their own communication systems, which they support, and they have purchased some radios, so that during the large-scale events they can communicate with the command and control that Fire Rescue or the agency hosting the events, should it be a planned event, would be providing.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Any other questions? Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Do you know department by department how many radios they'll have to upgrade in order to, you know, come in line with this?

**MR. POSTEL:**

Legislator Hahn, off the top of my head, no, I do not. We do have listings of how many each agency does have, because we program the radios for each one of the departments. And I can work with Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, my counterpart there, and find out what will need to be upgraded, and provide them information so that we can get it out to them.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah. I mean, I think it will be good to know the deficiencies in the system, you know, how many departments are -- still need to upgrade, how many units we're talking about, and maybe helping -- I don't know if there's grant writing, you know, for the individual departments, or as -- you know, as a whole to help bring them in line, to bring them up to speed. I know how important this is, how long we have been waiting for this. And I'm sure there are some that have already made the move, but it's an expensive move, and it will be good to know system-wide what kind of deficiencies we're talking about.

**MR. POSTEL:**

What I can say is that for the past several years, I can safely say two, it could possibly be three. We have been advising everyone when they purchased new equipment that while we were not currently capable with the system we're going to put in, that they purchase the capabilities for it, so it's already in their equipment. Most agencies did comply with that, so we should be looking pretty good. But we will have to confirm to make -- to see where the deficiency actually lies.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So I'll look -- I really think we should have that and know what, you know, numbers that we're talking about, and find ways to help, if possible.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Okay.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Doc?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

There is no greater importance than making sure that our people in Fire and Rescue have the proper equipment, and I'm 100% committed to that.

I do need to ask, because here's my concern: You know, this is \$12 million, and, you know, it's been a long time coming. I know there are situations where there are deficits, and that's unacceptable, and I get it. And I have no problem spending money where it needs to -- where it needs to be spent. But a lot of time, as a Legislator, my fear or my concern is that I don't have enough information to be able to make an intelligent decision just with -- as far as understanding the technology. So I'm going to ask a few questions here, and I may take a little bit of time to do it.

So, when I look at this particular system, and \$12 million -- let me first talk to BRO, if you wouldn't mind. When we talk about \$12 million in serial bonds that we're going to use to cover this, what does that equate to, and to service on that debt to our existing budget? Is there kind of a rough calculation to be able to service the debt on those bonds?

**MR. LIPP:**

Yes. Sorry about that.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Okay.

**MR. LIPP:**

So, if you'd bear with me for one second here, I could give you a rule of thumb. So you're talking about broad strokes on 12 million, it would be in the neighborhood of, over an 18-year period, of a little under a million dollars a year.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Okay. All right.

**MR. LIPP:**

That being said, the way -- understand, the way the capital project was adopted is simply it's almost a \$12 million, as you're saying, this year, but it's also for the -- for next year, we have in the 2016 Capital Program another 10 million.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Okay. Thank you. And that just gives me an idea, so -- and I've done some reading and I have some understanding, but I would like to hear it directly from you. And can you just kind of, when I -- my first question is when we look at upgrading this system that's so sorely needed and we look at the other forms of communication, my understanding is that in certain areas, there are dead spaces, and we could have people that are in a rescue situation where they're not able to get adequate communication. Are there other competing forms, microwave energy, other types of frequencies that we could use to do this function? Is this the best? And with that, if we put this in place, and we're paying for it for the next 18 years, is the next best thing going to come out two years from now? And so could you talk to me a little bit about your understanding in just very simple laymen's terms of the whole communication and how we build on it, and why this is a good investment for me as someone that's a caretaker of the public, the taxpayer's dollars.

**MR. POSTEL:**

So this communication system was actually installed in the early '90s, and has been in service for 20-plus years at this point in time. It has -- I believe the capital bond at that point in time was \$13 million when the system was initially installed, and has served the County very well and has

expanded very well over that portion in time. And since that point in time, there have been upgrades, there have been enhancements to the system, and we continue to do that as the County grows and as we try and provide better communications for our municipalities, the municipality as the County, as well as our public safety agencies within the County.

The trunk radio system that exists in the County is very robust. It does cover large areas. And you are correct, Legislator Spencer, that there are some areas that have fringe coverage, which we are addressing, and this body actually approved late last year three additional sites under a separate capital program to address those. And we kept them separate because of -- we weren't sure who the awarded vendor was going to be at that point in time. So those projects will be going forward as well to address areas in the southwestern portion of the County. The northern central portion of the County, specifically the Port Jefferson area, and something that I know Legislator Krupski and Legislator Schneiderman are very interested in specifically, a site out in Montauk to address some issues with that.

So it is ever evolving, the communications system, and for me to say that the next best thing is not going to come out two years from now, I'd be foolish, because it's like any other technology. You can buy something today and six months from now, it could be outdated. However, we have done our due diligence to look at the communication system, and purchase and move forward with equipment which is new. There is no foreseeable sunset on the equipment. The equipment, which we will be purchasing, is new to Motorola. It's only been out for a couple of years, and, typically, Motorola will have that equipment to -- available for purchase for at least 10 to 15 years, and then support it for seven to eight beyond that, which is exactly what has happened with our system now. We went beyond the supported life, but we have maintained the system and the system still continues to operate. It operated during this most recent storm, which we had several people utilizing the system during that time, etcetera.

As far as the type of communication, 800 trunked, really, I would not recommend for the mission-critical need that this system needs that we move off of the spectrum, besides the fact that it would be very difficult to get other radio spectrum to establish what we're looking to do. You mentioned interference. We have to go before a regional committee that I sit on that comprises the New York area, New Jersey, and part of Connecticut, and we communicate together so that we don't cause harmful interference with our neighbors. With Long Island being the geography that it is, it's very difficult for us to make sure that we can get this type of communication, because we have water to our south and water to our north, as well as off the side. So radio frequencies like to travel very easily across water, so we work with our partners in our neighboring region in Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and Massachusetts to make sure that we don't have those problems. And we're moving forward with this because it's the cycle, not because it's what we've been doing for the past 20 years. But it's because what we feel is the best interest of the County to upgrade and to stay on the system that we have now.

There's been a lot of investments in the current system, and upgrading the Legacy infrastructure with new infrastructure, which will be capable to carry us for several years to come, is the best way to go. I hope that'll answer your question, Legislator Spencer.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Really, really well.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Thank you.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I'm really pleased with that answer. Thank you. I mean, you couldn't have said it better.

So, if we make this investment, and you mentioned some fringe areas, though, but is it -- if we make this investment, will we be in a really good position, or do you need to come back for more? And, you know, if I say, "All right, I'm going to vote for this, at the end of the day I've equipped our fire and rescue people with the latest technology", or is this only a start? Is this --

**MR. POSTEL:**

No. This upgrade, as BRO mentioned to you, that the project is phased into two cycles, that we have the \$12 million, or just under \$12 million this year, and then there's another 10 million that we need to complete the project next year in order to do it. So the overall project is close to 21 million that it's going to take us to do this. It's just spread out over the course of two, two capital years, is the way it was done. So you're voting on 12 million today, but I don't want to not tell you that you're not going to be voting on another 10 million next year, because you will be.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

So -- and especially when you hear that nice round number of 20 million, which is kind of our sales tax revenue shortfall, too, so it's definitely one of those things that we have to have a bit more of a critical eye. And next year, that other piece, to Dr. Lipp, that would be also in bonds. That would be anticipated how we would pay for it?

**MR. LIPP:**

Correct.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

So we would be looking at roughly servicing \$2 million a year to really the bottom line, to service the debt over the next 18 years.

**MR. LIPP:**

Over 18 years, it would approximate 1.7 million a year. That's if you combine the two. And, also, if I could add, and correct me if I'm wrong, at least from our review from last year, if we don't move to this new system, A, it's a communications problem in terms of emergencies, which has already been stated, but also there's the possibility of the FAA taking away our channels.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Yes, the FCC. If we don't --

**MR. LIPP:**

FCC, sorry.

**MR. POSTEL:**

-- move forward with certain items and physically build out the infrastructure, they can take back frequencies which have been licensed for us.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

When we make this transition to the new system, and we mentioned upgrading, and just if we talk about an actual physical radio, will that radio be completely gone, or are we talking about taking a component out of that radio and putting in a new component?

**MR. POSTEL:**

There are certain model radios which exist currently which will totally be gone and would have to be replaced, because they're not capable of being upgraded. There are certain radios out there that

are capable of being upgraded. The physical appearance of the radio will not change. However, the software inside the radio will, and it's a computer update that's done to the radio in order to do that. The software update is cheaper, obviously, than purchasing a new piece of equipment, but we do have several thousands of radios that do have to be replaced.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

And that's already calculated in these numbers that we're looking at today?

**MR. POSTEL:**

Yes, Legislator Spencer, it is.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

So it will be. Would those old radios and the old system, would -- could they potentially be able to be utilized by school districts, or will that system just be offline, or will there be kind of the old system and the new system. Will the old system still function?

**MR. POSTEL:**

For a period of time, the old system will function in order to allow us to migrate over seamlessly without having any problems. It will also allow us to migrate so that our partners are able to come on board and upgrade their equipment as well. And we're doing this as a County, so we're going to go over to the Department of Public Works and say, "Here's all your new radios." We have to work with the outside agencies, the Amityville Village Police, Northport Police, Asharoken Police, these other agencies who use our system currently that purchase their own equipment that have been advised of this and have been advised that we're looking at doing this for the past several years, and they will be upgrading their equipment over time as well. We've been in constant communication with them, but they will be upgrading it.

So no one is going to be left out without anywhere to communicate that currently operates on a system. We're going to work with them, so that once everyone is over, the old system will be decommissioned, and it will not be used by anyone else, because there really are no longer support, there's no more support for the system at that point in time.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Understood. Dr. Lipp, the 1.7 million that we would be using to service the debt, have we already calculated that in to kind of our budget projections moving forward? We knew this was coming, or this is another 1.7 million that we have to figure out in budgets moving forward?

**MR. LIPP:**

Okay. We knew it was coming, yes. We -- in the review, we recommended adopting what was recommended, which was the case. So you're -- on your protocol, you wanted this in the adopted budget. That being said, we do have long-range forecasts that we really don't talk too much about, because there isn't any obvious forum for it, other than in probably April, we'll do our budget model estimates, which include some extensive assumptions about debt service, so it's sort of implicit. It's sort of a service requirement that we have no choice. Is the number very large? Did it raise my eyebrows when I saw it? Yes. But it's actually less than originally was planned. They're doing better there, and it's -- I guess we have no choice. It's just a need, you know, for emergency preparedness.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll yield at this time. Thank you for your answers, I appreciate it.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You know, I've been involved in meetings over the past two years with regards to this as -- and DuWayne has also. And if you had sat in those meetings, you would have been asking why are we just doing it today? We should have been doing this two years ago.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

No, no, I get that. I get that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So we're -- and to be honest with you, when you asked about using that equipment and giving it to schools, or anything, if you had sat in those meetings, you would absolutely not even want to consider giving it to anybody.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Understood.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We were going on eBay to get equipment parts, so that's a scary -- that's a scary thought, so --

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Got it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Anyway, but I know, Kevin, you had a question. I'm sorry.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Thank you. For 23 years as a Deputy Mayor of Lindenhurst, I sat on the Fire Council, so I'm always trying to find, like Doc is here today, trying to find the balance of making sure our first responders have what they need to have, and also to make sure that the people have the ability to pay for it at the end of the day.

So I just have to ask a couple of questions, because it is a big number, and it's going to be another big number next year. Explain to me somewhat in laymen's terms where we're going from, and I have a basic understanding of this, from where we're going, the system we're going to now, where we were, and the system we're going to now, and what is -- what is the benefits of one versus the other?

**MR. POSTEL:**

So the system we're on now is a Legacy analog system, which operates and has served the County very well for the past 20 years. We're moving to a Project 25, or P25, digital radio system, which has become a standard across the country for interoperable communications, so that we're able during large events to communicate, not even solely with our towns or our local governments, but more the State of New York, the State of Ohio, when other agencies come in from outside of our jurisdictions. These other governmental agencies have Project 25 radios, or if they do, they would be able to seamlessly communicate with us coming in from the get-go, as opposed to having to come in to a staging area and be issued cache radios, which we have, and we're still going to maintain for their missions in Suffolk County. So it makes it a lot easier for someone to hit the ground, and they could hit the ground running with their own equipment and that they're used to, and it will be able to allow them to communicate on our County radio system.

The system will be enhanced, the communications will be clearer. There are other features in the system which we're going to roll out, which could provide additional safety for people on the system. There is the potential for use of GPS on the radios, so that you can actually locate someone, say

they were lost in an area, specifically in a brush fire, if the radio was capable of having that. And we're recommending that those radios be purchased with GPS capabilities.

But, again, these radios -- you mentioned being on the Fire Council, most fire departments do have their own radio communication systems. These are for large-scale events that they're going to be coming out to. So they might not be their everyday use radios, but they are radios that are going to make it easier, so that if departments from the Town of Babylon have to come out to Southampton for some type of a large event, they're not just able to communicate with their Babylon Town departments, they're able to communicate with the County command and control over a larger area.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Is this the high band/low band kind of -- are you going to that different system, is that what this is?

**MR. POSTEL:**

Well, this is 800 megahertz, so low band is all the way down in the 30s to 50 range, so 30 point -- or which County Fire Rescue does currently still use, as well as a lot of the local agencies. Then you have VHF, which was in existence, and it's what the Police Department used to use for their communications. It's what the Coast Guard still uses and some Federal agencies, and we still maintain some of those assets for interoperability as well. And you have UHF, which most of the fire service is on in the County of Suffolk. And then you migrate up to 700 megahertz, 800 megahertz, which is typically trunked radio communication, which is what we use as the County. And a trunked radio system is -- for ease of explanation, it's meant for larger agencies so that they can put on more users with less radio frequencies. And as we all know today, everybody wants everything wirelessly, so with that comes radio frequencies. And radio frequencies are starting to dwindle, so this is the opportunity for us to seize these new channels, which we've been authorized for with the FCC, as well as upgrading our Legacy system, which we currently have.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

And what municipalities are using this now?

**MR. POSTEL:**

Outside of the County?

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Yeah.

**MR. POSTEL:**

I believe every township has authorization to use the communication system. Some use it more than others. Babylon Town does have their own, but they also use the County's. The Town of Smithtown uses communications on it, the Town of Brookhaven, the Town of Islip. The Town of Southold uses some, but more for interoperability with the County of Suffolk. There's local police jurisdictions which utilize it as well. Northport Village, Asharoken, Head of the Harbor, Huntington Bay, they use the communication system as well. The Village --

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

My question I think was more who was using this new technology, which kind of, I mean --

**MR. POSTEL:**

Inside the County?

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

No, outside of the County. I mean, other places have used it. Has it gone well for them? That's the question I'm asking.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Yes. There are statewide P25 systems, there are Countywide P25 systems that have been implemented across New York State and across the country, and the implementations have gone very well. And we're anticipating nothing but a good implementation here in the County of Suffolk.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Very good. Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Again, Mike, thank you, because I know how much work you've put into this. And I see the representative, Mr. Snype (phonetic) is here from Motorola. And again, Motorola has been very accommodating, knowing our financial situation, to make this a reality for us. So I know it's been taking some time to get this done. But, again, thank you, Mike, and also to FRES. We've got another question?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Just one quick question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Will it work inside of a hospital? Does it work? Does it -- I know there's a lot of different signals there.

**MR. POSTEL:**

So that's a loaded question, Legislator Spencer, because depending on the building type will depend on how much we can penetrate inside the building. I can tell you that the system, if it worked, if the radio system worked today inside the building that you're speaking of, it will work when we do the upgrade. But as building construction changes, more and more problems are starting to come on board with communications. And our neighbors to the west have done some other things about that as far as what they call amplifiers inside of buildings that we would determine that we have to do. We haven't crossed that bridge yet for the majority of the time. We don't have any major issues that we see in the County as far as interior communications inside buildings, at least not that I'm aware of.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

If I'm -- during surgery, during an earthquake, I want to know that you can get to me, man.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**MR. POSTEL:**

Legislator Spencer, just one thing for you. I know Dr. Lipp mentioned it, but Dr. Lipp mentioned that the number was quite higher. The number was upwards of 30 million when we started this two years ago, and we're down to 20 based on due diligence and negotiations with the vendors to where we are today. So thank you.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Okay, thanks.

**MR. POSTEL:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, you're okay. Kara, did you have another question?

**LEG. HAHN:**

So how much -- how much closer are we getting to true interoperability of all of our systems? I know we had, you and I -- I think it was you and I had a discussion on it, yes.

**MR. POSTEL:**

We have, Kara.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Like ten years ago, about really getting to a place where Fire Departments talk to Police Departments, talk to hospitals, talk to -- you know, true data systems, passing information between the ambulance and the hospital, and like real interoperability among all of our systems and --

**MR. POSTEL:**

Well, I think you and I are on the same page, that true interoperability is just turning a knob on a radio and being able to talk to somebody different. Please keep in mind, and I can say this because I'm a member of one of the 109 Fire Departments in Suffolk County, and used to be at one of the 27 volunteer ambulance companies, but I can tell you that everyone does have the capability to talk to their immediate neighbors, and in large scale events, the County agencies bring in the bigger guns so that everybody can talk together. So we're there, we're close, and this is going to bring us even closer, that that will be able to happen.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. We'll keep those conversations going about getting there. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And again, thank you, Mike, because, like I said, it's been a long time coming. So did we have a motion and a second?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

Yes, we --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think I made the motion. Did we do them both?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

We have a motion and a second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. Thank you. **(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).**

**MR. POSTEL:**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. **2185 - Establishing a School Traffic Zone Safety Commission (Sponsor: Legislator Anker).**

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion, Legislator Calarco. Do we have a second? No second?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Doc Spencer. Okay. On the motion? Legislator McCaffrey.

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Thank you. I would just -- you know, I read this, and I know this came about right after our decision to not have the speed cameras. I'm concerned about two things. The first is, is this kind of a -- we're all concerned about school safety, but where have we been since before we decided to take away the speed cameras? You know, and it's almost I see this as a knee-jerk reaction to our saying we don't need the speed cameras, so everything must be okay in the school zones. Because our reasoning for allowing the speed cameras originally to vote for the Home Rule Message was that -- about school safety. And we're taking away that. It's almost as if we need to fill a void.

Concerned about a few things, the makeup of this committee. I don't understand why the Chairperson of Public Safety is not on that committee or leading that committee. It seems like this is a public safety issue, and I think if somebody -- I can't think of anyone more well versed in that, and has been the Chair of that committee for quite a long time, to be -- to leading that committee. And I think, at the very least, that the Public Safety Chair, because it is a public safety issue, should be included on that committee.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure, go ahead.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I just wanted to respond to Legislator McCaffrey's comments. You know, again, I think we need to focus on the school area. And, you know, I'm actually chairing this Committee as Chair of Education & Information Technology, and, you know, including ideas of what technology is out there to create safer safety zones.

I would be more than happy to include our Chair of Public Safety on this committee. It was an oversight. Again, you know, that's an absolute possibility.

This legislation, basically, it is filling a void to some extent with the exclusion of the traffic safety cameras. In my district alone, there are three schools that have very high incidences of traffic accidents and fatalities, and this is something that needs to be discussed. And there's, you know, a number of people involved, including the -- let's see. We have the President of Suffolk County Superintendent's Association. We have a representative of the PTA, Regional Suffolk County PTA. We have the Commissioner of Public Works, as well as Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association, and Supervisors Association. So it's getting together the minds of people involved, and

understanding traffic and school issues, and coming up with ideas. So, basically, it's just open discussion.

And again, in the resolution, it talks about prioritizing areas. And there are some very, very dangerous school zone areas in Suffolk County, and that's something we're going to look at doing. So it complements the idea of traffic safety, but I would be more than happy to include our Chair of Public Safety on the committee.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

All we need --

**LEG. ANKER:**

If the Chair would like to.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, actually, it kind of surprises me that it's in the Public Safety Committee and no one from Public Safety is on it. I agree with the Legislator as far as the makeup. Generally, if it's a public safety bill, certainly, I would have thought I'd been included. And again, with the issue of taking away the speed cameras, I do question, is this a solution looking for a problem? And what happens after the committee meets and decides speed cameras are the solution, what are you going to do?

**LEG. ANKER:**

Could I answer that for you? I just wanted to clarify, there is -- Suffolk County Police Department is a representative on the committee, and also the County Exec's designee, which I believe will be the Traffic Safety Commission person. So I just wanted to clarify that. I'm sorry, could you repeat your question? I'll answer your second question.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. If, in fact, the committee decides that speed cameras are the solution to the problem, where do we go from there?

**LEG. ANKER:**

Well, again, this committee is so wide. It's a full range of ideas. So, you know, there's issues. And just to get specifics, in my district, and why I feel this is an important topic to discuss with the professionals who really understand the issue, I have several schools that are on main highways, 25A, Mount Sinai School District, and also Shoreham-Wading River. And in Shoreham-Wading River, what happens is the high school kids cross the road to get to school. So there's a parking lot across 25A and so they walk across the road. So these are high traffic areas. There's one school in -- it's the Ridge Elementary School in Middle Island -- excuse me, in Ridge, and Middle Island kids go to that. But what happens is it's so far out, it's in the middle of the woods, and it's a very, very long road, and people fly down this road passing this school.

So the point I'm trying to make is there are different issues regarding school safety, and we want to target some of those ideas and issues. So it could -- we could find maybe there's some schools within Suffolk County that could use the traffic safety cameras. But, according to a large constituent base, the majority of the residents are not in favor. And again, that's why this project was pulled, but -- and it did leave a void, and I'm hoping this committee will somewhat fill the void, but address specific issues within the County.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Kara, did you have something?

**LEG. HAHN:**

No. I just want to say, let's let the committee decide what they're going to recommend before we start assuming what they're going to recommend. And I think that there is a need here. I did have members of my community, you know, enraged by speeding in school zones. And so there was a child hit in front of a middle school. You know, I really do think that we need to investigate this. If we're taking away the enforcement on the, you know, option that we had had, and we don't have a Police Officer to sit in front of every school, which we clearly do not, you know, I think that there can be different solutions in different communities, and some will involve -- there are very creative ways to slow traffic down -- what's it called, when you engineer -- engineer the roadway to slow the -- you know, to slow the speed of --

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Traffic calming.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Traffic calming. Thank you. There are creative traffic calming solutions that are possible. And I think that we should let the committee meet, and if it needs to add someone from our Public Safety Committee, because if you don't believe that a representative of the Police Department is enough, then we should do that. But I do think that there's a void that does need to be filled here, there has been, and many, many school districts had been crying out for some sort of solution, whether it's, you know, sidewalks, traffic calming, other enforcement options. We certainly should look at the range of solutions that are available, and wait and see what comes out of the committee.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Doc?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I agree. I'm not a big fan of commissions, but I think this idea is brilliant on Legislator Anker's part; that there was a lot of definitely public concern with the speed cameras. And there was debate over whether or not it was revenue or safety, but there is a safety issue. And this is a very smart way to be able to look for solutions, and I congratulate you on that. I do think there's a void there, and to look at ideas as alternatives to fill that void. So I agree with those points.

And I guess to Counsel, if we add the Chair -- I do think the Chairwoman of Public Safety or one of her designees should be on this committee. Do we have to start over from scratch, or can we do it by separate resolution later, if we move forward with this today? But I do feel strongly that -- and I am sure, you know, Legislator Anker has already said that it was a minor oversight -- a major oversight, but it was not intended to be that way. But I think you have a great idea. So, George, what are our options here?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Well, the options are you could table this resolution to amend it to add a member, or you could pass this resolution out, and, by a separate resolution later, add a member.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Legislator Anker, is that -- any one of those options -- which option is desirable to you, I'll support.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I'll bring it back to the Chair of the committee. Legislator, would you prefer to table this, then we could add you to this?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

It's not my bill, and I think that's entirely up to the sponsor what she wants to do with it. I mean, clearly, you know, I look at it and I think, you know, why -- I don't think it's rocket science to figure out what the problems are in school zones. And again, when we were looking at speed cameras, speed cameras were not going to go on town roads, they were only going to be designated in specific areas, if I'm not mistaken. So in my school district, there are very school schools where the school speed cameras would have actually been implemented. And I think I have an issue in my district where there's kids parking in a parking lot across from the high school and we requested a crossing guard, so a crossing guard is what you need. Now, if those kids are parking across from the Shoreham High School, are they legally supposed to be parking there? Why aren't they parking in the school parking lot? Why are they parking across the street and crossing? Because I'm assuming it's 25A that they're crossing over.

**LEG. ANKER:**

(Nodded yes)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So the question is, is what is the school doing about that? Because those kids probably are not parking where they're legally required -- allowed to park. So that would be something to ask.

And I think, too, when you're talking about -- if they're -- if the school has no objection to them parking, then they -- put in a request for a crossing guard like I did. And I'm not going to say it, but I -- but, yeah, I'm going to say it. The problem we have is, is we don't enough sector cars. If we had more Police Officers and more sector cars who were able to monitor the speed zones, but they're too busy, and they are stretched thin. And to expect them to be in a speed zone, in a school speed zone every day is probably next to impossible. So having more sector cars out there, and having maybe a School Resource Officer in some of our school districts, because that's another problem we have, we don't have enough School Resource Officers, they're being spread thin.

**LEG. HAHN:**

We don't have enough Police Officers.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Say again?

**LEG. HAHN:**

We don't have enough Police Officers.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That's what I just said, we don't have enough Police Officers. And they're getting stretched thin and they cannot monitor our school zones the way they should be. They're the ones who should be out there, they should be writing the tickets. And again, they could do it in every school zone. A speed -- speed cameras were only going to be in specific areas. A Police Officer can be in every school zone --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Not at the same time.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- within the towns. So I think it would be more effective to have Police Officers. So, like I said, I can solve that problem sitting here right now. And I have to say, I did put in a request, because that's -- not to go off topic, but we did have a request for the Commissioner or a representative to come and respond to a question that was broached to me by some Legislators. So, you know, like I

said, it's entirely up to the sponsor what you want to do with it.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Okay. So I'll go ahead and I'll table it this cycle. We'll add you to our commission. We'll clarify, too, the County Exec and his Traffic -- the Traffic Safety Coordinator to be the County Exec's designee; is that okay, Lisa.

**MS. SANTERAMO:**

Yes. It's your committee. Whatever you want to do with it, we'll work with you.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Okay. I appreciate that. Okay. So we'll table it, table this cycle.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I'll make a motion -- I'll withdraw my motion to approve. We'll make a motion to table so that the sponsor can make amendments, and then we could move on.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And so we have a tabling motion, and a second, Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: Tabled 6-0-0-0).**

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. **1002 - Appropriating funds in connection with the renovations and alterations to Probation buildings.**

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled -- I'm sorry, approved. Sorry, I'm looking at the other one. **(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).**

**1009 - Approving a temporary increase in the fleet of the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (Sponsor: County Executive).** I'll make a motion to approve. And I guess this is a brush truck, right, if I'm not mistaken? Is there somebody who can --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

What was this?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

It's not the brush truck.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Hold on. Yeah, there was a -- oh, yes, it was the jet ski. Yeah, you better answer that one.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Come on up.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You got an answer for us?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

What are we doing with a jet ski?

**MR. VETTER:**

Last year, this governing body accepted a New York State Homeland Security grant for our typecasting of our Urban -- our use -- our Urban Search and Rescue Team. We're reaching a Type II standard for water rescue, for high water rescue. It's more than just a jet ski, it's a jet ski that meets the Federal standard of typecasting for a personal water device.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I guess my more relevant question here is who actually is going to operate it? Because I know many of our fire departments -- I know any of my fire departments that have connection to the water have boats and other watercraft that they use. I know our Police Department has watercraft that they use. Obviously, they maintain the Marine Bureau. So who -- where is this actually going to end up being docked? Who's going to be responsible for manning it. If there's an incident, you know, how are we going to get it out there? You know, something like this is, I guess, appropriate for some sort of immediate response, you know. Or what are we doing with this? Who's running it?

**MR. VETTER:**

So FRES controls and manages the USAR Team, as well as some of the other specialty teams. It's staffed by a mixture of both County personnel from all aspects of public safety, as well as from volunteer organizations. It composes up the USAR team.

So, back to Sandy, if we rewind to that period of time, we activate the USAR team. Both the employee, or, you know, career side of the system, as well as the volunteers, get activated and come in; centralized out of Yaphank and then are deployed. So it's a deployable asset maintained within FRES, with the high water vehicle, the boat trailers, the flat bottom boats, departs in that way. It gets taken into a specific area. So back in Sandy, they went down to the Babylon area, and then worked within the command structure of that area or that Task Force towards that component. So they're specifically trained within the FEMA standard to operate. So they have to take basic boat water safety classes, along that line in that way. It would be a deployable asset to the local agencies for smaller events, if requested, just like the light towers, the sign boards, and all the other fun stuff we have.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Anybody else? Kevin?

**LEG. MC CAFFREY:**

Yeah. Thank you. You know, I do know -- I saw these things firsthand. New York State has a High Water Rescue Team, and at the time when I was in Lindenhurst, the night of Sandy, I somehow ended up in the middle of a flooded street on a back -- on a payloaders trying to put out a fire. I don't know how I got there, but I did. And there was six feet of water in the street, and that High

Water Rescue Team came in with those types of watercraft and were evacuating people from their homes that were being affected by fire. They couldn't get out at this point, you know, and the house next door had gone on fire. They just did a great job. I mean, I just saw them coming in, pulling people out. They had kayaks, and as well as these watercrafts, and they were going house to house, knocking on doors, searching. So I did see it firsthand, you know, how effective they can be, you know, properly utilized. So I think we'll be able to put that to good use. And I don't think we're paying for this either, so that's even better. So thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. No more questions? Okay. So thank you. And so did we have a motion and a --

**MR. RICHBERG:**

We have a motion, no second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Who made the motion?

**MR. RICHBERG:**

You did, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And second, Legislator --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Kate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).**

Okay. ***1016 - Accepting and appropriating 100% federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2014 Technical Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Grant Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (Sponsor: County Executive).***

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Spencer.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Place on the Consent Calendar; I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 6-0-0-0).**

***1024 - Authorizing an Agreement between the County of Suffolk and the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission for the operation of a No-Burn Brush Fire Training Course (Sponsor: County Executive).*** Motion to approve, I'll make that motion. Second?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

And before we adjourn, I do apologize, I know we do have some people here that I did not recognize at the beginning. We have -- Mike Sharkey is here from the Sheriff's Department. Mike, did you have -- was there anything or you're just here?

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Probation, Patrice, nothing?

**MS. DLHOPOLSKY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. FRES, do you have anything you need to let us know about?

***(Negative response)***

Okay. We have one last thing, and I know that we did -- I sent an email. I know we have the Lieutenant here from -- Lieutenant, right? From the P.D. Again, I always say don't shoot the messenger. But I did send an email dated January 22nd to the Commissioner and representatives of the Police Department Headquarters regarding the shifting of sector cars for coverage in certain areas. The email says the shifts that I've been made aware of, in fact, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Precincts. I believe that the Third Precinct has been affected also by some of these shifts. My question was, is the Department making changes with the precinct lines, or changes of any kind to improve coverage for specific areas? I did make a request, this email, like I said, dated January 22nd. I received no correspondence back. So I think that's a little unfair, and, I have to say, disrespectful to not receive a response to the email to say, "Well, we can't be there, we're not coming," whatever. I got nothing. I'm not putting the blame on you. I know we spoke earlier, and I don't want to put you in a spot, because you weren't aware of this. Do you know anything about this?

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Madam Chair, what I know is in an effort to reduce our response time, the Chief of Patrol's Office has commissioned a study to improve that response time. And part of that plan may or may not include the realigning of some sectors. Nothing has been done as of yet. And this study is still in its infancy, so these are just ideas, these are not concrete plans as of yet.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So the information that I've received that a sector car from the Fourth Precinct has moved into the Sixth Precinct --

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

It has not.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That has not happened?

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

There has been no change. Madam Chair, there has been no change --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

-- in any of our car plans.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Then it's all --

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

It is being studied, though, it is a possibility.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, like I said, a couple of the Legislators have reached out to me making a request to get the information. So I think it would be appropriate, especially when -- you know, I know in my District, I get a lot of phone calls for police issues, you know, so it's nice to know that if the lines are being moved, that there's even a plan to do it or a thought to do it, so -- and I think everybody in the Public Safety Committee can agree that, you know, anything that happens with the Police Department and public safety issues in our District, public safety is a priority for all of us.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Sure, absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And so I would appreciate that we could get a response.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I know we're only a couple of weeks away until the next meeting, that maybe we can get a response at the next meeting.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

And again, Madam, just -- Madam Chair, just to clear this up, this plan or this study is in an effort to reduce our response time and improve our service. We're taking into account traffic patterns, calls for service, and things of that nature.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I could tell you again, not rocket science, I can tell you how you can improve that, and that would be hire more Police Officers. Get more cops out on the road, because we're 100 less Police Officers today than we were in 2009. So it makes sense that we would -- you know, how do you improve your response time? You have more Police Officers. And it can't necessarily always be done with paying overtime.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

The amount of sectors haven't changed in a number of years.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right, but we are paying a lot of overtime.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I do have the overtime information. And, you know I certainly wouldn't fault any Police Officer from taking advantage of it, but, clearly, it's getting to the point where I think they're being stretched thin, and that's a concern when you're putting somebody in a car and doing a double shift that, you know, how's the response time the next time around, and how many shifts are they covering?

I did receive information. I'm going to pass out to -- I don't know if all the Committee Members received it, because I did put in a request about eligible retirements between now and 2018, and it's -- you know, I have asked some -- for some additional information of John, and I'm waiting to get that. But I did find out we actually had 70 Police Officers retired in 2014. I did ask about how many Police Officers between 2015 and '18 will be eligible for retirement. Right now, the eligible retirees, 48%; 2016 is 55.3%; 2017, 56.4%, and 2018, 58.9%.

I did ask that by 2018 -- and I know that most Police Officers don't retire at the 20-year point, they probably average over 25 to 30 years. So we have -- by 2018, we have 58.9% who will be at 20 years. We have over 25 years, 44.4% by 2018. So those are definitely very staggering numbers and we're not going to catch up with that. And we can't wait until 2018 to retire. So, again, I'm just letting you know, this is information we have received, and I think it's important that we find out where the Administration is on working on hiring new Police Officers.

I know, Robert, if you would like to jump in on -- you know, the issue is, is that the PBA came up with a contract with new hires coming in at a lot lesser pay scale than the current Police Officers, yet we really haven't hired that many. So could you kind of let us know? I know -- I think the last estimate I got, our overtime budget was 29.8 million. We actually went to 36 million in overtime.

**MR. LIPP:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So, you know, the reality is, is if we hire brand new Police Officers at the bottom of the pay scale, you know, do we or do we not save money, you know, on our overtime costs? And, you know, come 2018, what are we going -- what are we going to look like if we don't start hiring?

**MR. LIPP:**

There is an increase in the cost to the County when we hire new Police. That is partially offset by a decrease in overtime costs once they're out on the street, new Police Officers, so it's not going to be costless. That being said, there is an issue of service provision here that you're speaking to that is a real issue. So it's a matter of, you know, what we're willing to trade off in terms of finances and providing services. There isn't any easy solution, but, you know, it's becoming increasingly difficult in order to keep overtime at a more reasonable level, under -- say under \$30 million, which, if we hired more cops, we would, but then there would be an increase, especially not -- even though they're getting paid less, you know, there are all sorts of benefits that we have to pay that's not going to be there with just the overtime costs. But, you know, I'm not the right person to speak

about this, but, apparently, it's becoming increasingly difficult for the Police Department to cover all of the sectors 24/7 with overtime, that it -- you know, as much overtime as they want. Many Police Officers, it's becoming difficult for them to say yes, because they're being asked to do this on an increasing basis.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. So, anyway, I guess maybe if we get a response on the lines over precincts, maybe we can get an update on what the plan is moving forward for the next few years with some potential retirements. And guaranteed, with the expiration of a contract in 2018, we're definitely going to see -- I think before 2018, we're going to definitely see some retirements. So I appreciate it.

I also received some correspondence from the Coalition Against Domestic Violence with some concerns about being able to keep their outreach project in the precincts because of funding issues. I'll share this letter with you.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I would appreciate if we could get an answer on -- you know, with the Administration to see what we're going to do, because when we have a domestic violence case that comes to a precinct, we generally have somebody to respond to them. And I know Kara, this, I'm sure, is of interest to you. Did you get a copy of this letter?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Not that I'm aware of.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think I just received it the past day or two.

**MR. SLAUGHTER:**

Yesterday.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah, yesterday, I just got it. So I'll share it with you. But we definitely need to make sure that we have an advocate at the precincts.

So, anyway, with that, I did make also a request. I thank you, Lieutenant. Does anybody else have any questions for him?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No? Okay. I think I've said plenty.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I think it's sentiments that we all share, and I think it's important to note that. I certainly received a couple of the calls from various individuals about proposals that are being floated out there, and it sounds to me that the Chairwoman's right on the mark here. We're having trouble meeting the service that is needed to be provided. I happen to have some friends in the Department that their

wives are screaming at them not to take anymore OT, because they're not home ever, because they're always working on OT.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

That's actually odd, because my wife prefers it when I'm not.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. CALARCO:**

They're a young couple with a couple of little kids at home, and I think she's looking for a break once in a while. But, nonetheless, I think that it's clear that what we're hearing is that there's likely not enough guys to go around, not enough officers on the street, and you're really stretching thin. And it maybe something we need to hear what the Department's plan is, not only to cover the sectors as they are today, but what we're doing moving forward in terms of personnel and needs.

I know that this Administrations has been very good about helping to make sure that promotions are being made in a timely fashion. I'm seeing some of my best COPE officers promoted on a regular basis. But while that's a good thing, at the same time, every time you make a promotion, that's one less just Police Officer in a car, and we need to replace those individuals.

**LIEUTENANT DOUGHERTY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you. And I -- also, I did make a request. I know that the Corrections and Deputy Sheriffs have not -- do not have a contract yet, but I did put in a request for the same information with -- once they resolve their contract issues.

I don't think I have anything else. I mean, I do have to say, and again, with FRES, I got an email video of one of the guys who is one of our Dispatchers in FRES who has just retired, and I did put in a request on the retirements. And I don't know if you guys can respond to that. I know that the State is -- has the State scored the tests yet?

**MR. VETTER:**

The test scores have come back.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Come up. I'm sorry. I probably should have -- yeah, because I know the State had to score those tests, which makes it a little bit difficult for you. And how are we doing on hiring those positions?

**MR. VETTER:**

Test scores have come back. The letters have gone out to the testees for them to start scheduling their typing test. We've reached out to the appropriate Civil Service Department, as well as Health Department for the other mental health testing that needs to happen for that, and it's being pursued. All the active SCINs have been signed off by the County Exec's Office. Yes, there's retirement. His SCIN has been sent -- is being off today to the County Exec. We expect that to be signed fairly shortly.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good. How many did you -- I know there was an expected number of retirees for this year.

**MR. VETTER:**

The class that will be hired will be probably the six open vacancy spots. So 100% of the SCINs

currently assigned and positions within the budget will be filled.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Any other questions? No? Okay. Thank you. With that, I think there are no more questions, and so I'll make a motion to adjourn; second, Legislator Calarco. We're adjourned.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.\*)***