



**TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL
INFORMATION ITEM**

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Administration and Operations

Date: February 10, 2025

Department: Fire

Topic: Fire Service Communications System Upgrade

Background: Fire Department communications in Leeds and Grenville is delivered using assets owned by both the county and the City of Brockville.

The UCLG own and maintain 8 radio sites across the County that provide digital radio and paging for fire departments throughout Leeds and Grenville. The UCLG also maintain the GIS mapping and address information used by the computer aided fire dispatch system Crisys.

Dispatching services are provided by the City of Brockville under a fire dispatch service agreement. Brockville is responsible for the computer aided dispatch system, Motorola dispatch consoles and all other associated items such as updates, uninterruptable power systems, back-up dispatch center etc.

In 2014 UCLG transitioned from analog to digital P25 communications and paging. The transition included new Motorola equipment at the radio sites, fire dispatch and new user gear for fire departments. In 2017 the Counties entered into a 10-year service agreement with Bell Mobility that included 3 system upgrades. The final upgrade is scheduled for April 2025 and will allow the current system to continue to be supported by Motorola for at least 2 more years.

Given that significant upgrades and support costs are anticipated to support the communications system beyond 2027, and that the system has not been evaluated in over 10 years, the Counties are engaging in a study to review the system and develop an upgrade strategy. The fire chiefs of UCLG have established a communications committee that will be working with county staff and the consultant to ensure any system updates meet the needs of the fire service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Man', written over a horizontal line.

Fire Chief