

800MHz Radio System Radio Selection Process

**Technical Services
Radio Transition Team
September 25, 2003**

A very important portion of the new radio system is the selection of which type of radio we will be using.

To understand why we have choices, you will need a little background information. In the past, when you purchased a radio system from a vendor, you also needed to buy their portable radios to match their system. In our new radio system, it's designed as a P25, or open architecture system, meaning any company can produce a radio that is compatible. This is of tremendous importance to us in that it allows us choices.

We are currently evaluating radios from Motorola, E.F. Johnson and Kenwood. Each of these radios offers different features and options that must be tested prior to a decision being made on what we will purchase.

The radio team has attended classes about each of these radios that were presented by the manufacturing companies. The radio team in turn established a group of field representatives including Captains, Engineers and Firefighters. These members were given "in- service" training on the 3 radios. These representatives then used these radios in a series of hot drills at the Training Academy. After each drill was done, an evaluation form was completed to collect data on that particular radio. This data was then compiled and any changes or recommendations were looked at for further review.

We are now in the process of implementing some of these changes and scheduling additional drills to see how these suggestions and changes can benefit us.

No single person will be making a final decision on what radio to purchase. The process involves many members of the department, and is also assigned to a focus group consisting of field Captains and Battalion Chiefs. Our union is also very involved in the process, and will help in the decision-making.

As the process continues, we will be bringing out more information on which radio was chosen and the options it will offer us.