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Computer-aided dispatch system upgrade among topics of Sept. 3 MARCS steering committee meeting

The Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee will meet from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3 at the Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 S. High St., Columbus, in Room 1960.

Agenda items include an update on the status of the statewide system upgrade, including enhancements being made to the computer-aided dispatch system. The upgraded system will offer computer-aided dispatch services in a shared service environment to local public safety agencies as well as a field-based reporting and records management system for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Currently, the MARCS system is at capacity with roughly 48,000 radios on the system and is reaching the end of its reliable life. The upgrade will expand capacity to more than 100,000 radios.

The goal of the State of Ohio is to encourage local government entities to become customers of the upgraded MARCS system. The upgrade will provide customers with a long-term solution while allowing the state as a whole to leverage assets and deliver one comprehensive radio system.

MARCS is the State of Ohio's comprehensive wireless communication system for police, fire, emergency medical services and other public safety forces. MARCS provides wireless voice and mobile data for state agencies, including the Ohio departments of Natural Resources, Public Safety, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Transportation. MARCS also provides wireless radio service for nearly 1,500 county, township, federal and private first-responders.

MARCS is administered by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.