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Maj. Burt Himmer (DFS)

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIO SYSTEM



JOINT TASK FORCE

April 2, 2021

Senator Wilton Simpson,
President,
The Florida Senate

Dear Mr. President,

Land Mobile Radio is an essential tool that provides effective and efficient means of communication between dispatch centers and first responders to include critical intelligence, monitoring officer safety status, and ensuring coordination of emergency assistance. Our first responders require immediate, efficient, and reliable communications. Without a reliable radio system, they will be less able to respond and provide service for emergency calls for assistance from the public; thereby, increasing the potential for serious risk of danger to our first responders and to the public.

Multiple agencies have mobile and portable radio replacement as part of their budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. Many of these radios are at end of life, meaning they frequently need repair and replacement of parts that are difficult to acquire or are no longer available.

While recognizing the difficult budgetary decisions the Legislature must face this and every year, it is critical the Legislature consider the importance of properly funding the extension of the state's current law enforcement radio system and include the respective state agencies funding requests for radios. It would not be an exaggeration to assert that Florida's first responders and the public will be at risk should they be required to go another year with obsolete equipment or without a fully functional and properly maintained radio system.

The State Law Enforcement Radio System Joint Task Force respectfully and strongly urges the members of the Florida Legislature to support Florida's state law enforcement agencies' fiscal year 2021-22 funding requests for land mobile radio equipment and the ongoing operation of the current radio system.

Sincerely,

Colonel Gene S. Spaulding, Chair
State Law Enforcement Radio System Joint Task Force