



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee
From: Aimée Pope, Ted Barnett
Date: September 17, 2025
Subject: Public Safety Communications Appropriations Language and Additional Notes

For background, here is some information about the appropriations language for the Public Safety Communications Task Force and regional dispatch. This funding includes \$11 million for regional dispatch and \$9 million in Congressionally Directed Spending, also referred to as the COPS grant.

[2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115, and as further amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 49]

Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

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(b) \$11,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety for regional dispatch funding. The funds are subject to the following conditions:

(1) Up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for the retention of technical experts to assist the Public Safety Communications Task Force with the analysis and planning required by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114 and to fund the administrative expenses incurred by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. If the Task Force determines that additional funding is necessary to achieve its purposes, it may submit a request to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee is authorized to approve up to an additional \$1,000,000.

(2) Up to \$4,500,000 shall be available to provide funding for pilot projects pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.114(f).

(3) Any remaining amounts not obligated pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall remain unobligated and unexpended until approval to expend the funds is authorized by further enactment of the General Assembly.

(4) In order to extract the greatest value from the limited State and federal dollars currently available for public safety communications modernization, it is the intent of the General Assembly that all such funding is expended in an efficient and complementary manner. To that end, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances, to the greatest extent possible, the statewide public safety communications system developed by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall promptly inform the Public Safety Communications Task Force as federal parameters for expending the funds become available and as the Commissioner develops and, if necessary, revises the plan to expend such funds. The Commissioner shall solicit recommendations from the Task Force regarding the plan, including any revisions to the plan, the implementation schedule, and specific expenditures. In addition, the Commissioner shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned expenditures.

Additional Notes:

- Sec. 1100(b)(1) of [Act 78](#) (2023) allocated up to \$2 million to the Public Safety Communications Task Force for analysis and planning - \$1 million was made available and an additional \$1 million could be accessed upon approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee (JFC). In July, the Task Force requested JFC approve \$517,633.51 of the additional \$1 million. The Task Force indicated that this funding would fully support contractual requirements and per diems through the remainder of fiscal year 2026.
- Act 78 (2023) directed the Task Force to provide 3 deliverables. Section C.114 of Act 78 fully outlines the components of each deliverable:
 - A draft preliminary design/progress update (due January 15, 2024);
 - System inventory and assessment (due September 15, 2024); and
 - Final design plan (due December 15, 2024).
- Task Force reports responding to these statutory directives, and proposed plans for the \$9 million COPS grant described in item (4) above can be found [here](#).