

A Special meeting of the Bracken County Fiscal Court was held Monday June 8, 2026, for the purpose of transacting any business properly presented by the established agenda.

Presiding: Tina K. Teegarden,
Judge Executive

Present: Heather Brumley, David Kelsch, Danny Holleran, Debbie Mayfield, Sandy Ruf, Craig Miller, John Scott

Absent: Kevin Jarrells

County Radio System DKC Radio

Judge Teegarden stated we're here this morning for the sole discussion of the county radio system. We needed our vendors, and the county attorney needed to be present, too, because of the CJIS system and that being under her ORI. County Attorney Moore stated there has been some information that has come to her attention in the past week or so, that, along with some of the changes we're going to be making, I think there need to be other changes. A lot of permissions were granted to the law enforcement channel for people who are not CJIS certified, and all of those people are going to have to come off of that system because it puts us out of compliance with security requirements. There may or may not be exceptions, but I cannot find them currently, but I am going through the 300-page document. Some of the changes that are going to be made are going to require some additional changes in reprogramming as well. Judge Teegarden stated we have DKC with us this morning but first there was some information that's been coming in, and I want to nip it in the bud. I've been asked by numerous people if we forced the fire departments to take possession of their radios, and I actually have a signed request, it was part of a discussion. Three fire chiefs sent a letter, and it was in there about taking ownership, and then it was brought up twice in one meeting asking if it was going to be put in writing. I just wanted that off the table, the court nor the judge forced anyone to take possession of their radios. And I believe I've included all that in the magistrates' folders. So, we do have some quotes. I'm going to have DKC step forward, and talk about their quotes, and that will probably prompt lots of discussion and questions as we go. DKC had given quotes to all the court. The first one I'm going to use the analog repeater system. You can just turn it on to where it's simulcast in the DMR system. He stated after talking with Judge Teegarden and County Attorney Moore, we have decided that we would need to encrypt the law enforcement channel. That took it to \$29,935. To encrypt the law and simulcast the fire channel across the analog channel. Sheriff's Deputy Jones asked, what level of encryption would that be to? DKC stated there's three choices you can choose. You have basic encryption; it basically is the base model. This is standard encryption for what analog will be. The next one is enhanced privacy. It is 40-bit rolling code. So, every time you transmit it changes the code. The next step is the government's security code, which is AES 256. It is very pricy. Sheriff's Deputy Jones stated his understanding is that our current radios are only capable of encrypting up to 40 bits. DKC stated that it is incorrect. They are capable of AES 256 encryption. It takes a key, but it is capable. Deputy Jones asked, do we have that documentation that shows that they are? Because FBI and CJIS recommend nothing less than 128-bit encryption. So, in that regard, where would we stand with that 40-bit encryption compared to what you're talking about? DKC stated that would be a question for the county attorney. I believe there are exceptions to a lot of the CJIS stuff for you. Deputy Jones asked if we have documentation for the radios that says that they are capable of more than 40-bit encryption. DKC stated yes, but he would need to research a little further to confirm everything. Deputy Jones stated his understanding after everything that he's read regarding these radios is that they're only capable of 40-bit encryption. That's based standard in the radios. DKC stated yes, that is correct, but you can add a key to encrypt further. They are capable of AES 256, but I would need to research further to confirm. Motorola does have that documentation. He asked, how does that affect the quote? DKC stated it goes tremendously. Deputy Jones stated from our research, the 40 bit is not adequate for us, not according to the recommendations. Judge Teegarden stated that it's for the RAS key, it was, under the exceptions that were listed at the time of the bidding process. The only other quote that was there was for changing out the analog repeater to another DMR repeater which will give a half 2 top group packs again that will allow for Fire and EMS to communicate with Mason or any other county, and then it also gives you the 2nd call group for the law enforcement to be able to get mutual aid from other counties, but it'll

give us a couple late channels for that. Magistrate Brumley asked, so analog is off the table. This second bid will take care of it without using analog. DKC stated, correct. It will be a central tower site at Bluegrass. And the only other thing they would do is we have to change the tornado sirens. That's the only reason the analog was left on to DMR. Deputy Jones asked, how is that coverage going to be, countywide, though, with just that one repeater on bluegrass? DKC stated Bluegrass works everywhere, for the most part. There are hollers and things like Milford ballparks, but it's probably not one of the works on a portable radio, but Countywide on mobile radio, you'll have full coverage. The Parina tower is what we can key into when we're in downtown Lexington or Cincinnati. Parina will give you 95% of county wide mobile coverage. Deputy Jones stated, that essentially takes us back to the very beginning of where we started, before we even got these radios, was lack of coverage, and some of these dead spots that we currently have, and that if we're needing mutual aid for Mason County Sheriffs or Mason County, EMS, fire, whatever the case may be, we need to make sure that these guys are able to talk to us and talk to their dispatch, because that's the issue we're running into now. Perfect example from my situation that I had, when we were trying to catch Bill Woodruff. I was following the vehicle that he was allegedly going down Dutch Ridge. And so, I was having to relay to our dispatch, who was then having to relay to Mason County, who was then having to relay to their deputies. And then, of course, things were changing, because I'm not sure which direction they were going to go when they got down to Route 8. And so, of course, when they got to Route 8, I had to relay that back, and, of course, you are now you're playing a telephone game. Versus, if I'd have had mutual aid, I could have called up Mason County Deputy Linville. Like, hey, buddy, switch over to Mutual Aid Channel and track me. Here's what I got going on. Yes, I mean, you would still have to call, because Mason County Sheriff and Law Enforce of AES 256 encryption and will not release that to another agency. Deputy Smith asked, which model of radios do we have? DKC stated you have ACR 3500 ES. Deputy Smith said according to this, it's only 40 bits capable. DKC stated they did not have the Motorola paperwork with them, but it did say they were AES 256 capable. So, it cannot be 128 bits encrypted. DKC stated according to what they've read it can, but they will check further on that with this encryption now being discussed. Magistrate Ruf asked, the third quote, would that cover everything?" DKC stated yes except communicating with P25 for law enforcement. Magistrate Ruf stated it's no brainer. We're just going to have to do that, and everybody's covered, and everybody's happy, and the county is safe. DKC stated, if you want the high encryption level, we can go back and quote that, but it would take some serious numbers. And we have got to find out for sure what's required with CJIS too. And whether the radios we currently have are capable of meeting that requirement to begin with before we even go down the road of picking and choosing an option. DKC stated according to this documentation, Motorola XPR 5550 E mobile radio fully supports hardware-based ADS 256 encryption. However, unlocking requires specific firmware, version upgrades, and entitlement keys. So that's where your cost comes in, is we have to purchase keys for your radios to be able to do it. So, all your radios in the county that you have in law enforcement, are capable of AES 256 encryption. But does that have to come from a public safety authorized dealer? Deputy Jones asked, "You guys are a public safety authorized dealer? DKC stated yes. Deputy Jones stated, I apologize, I misunderstood, I was under the assumption that you guys weren't an authorized public safety dealer, as far as being able to supply that level of encryption to law enforcement. Magistrate Kelsch asked DKC, what's the time frame to decide between the three? DKC stated, less than a month probably but it does depend on the supply chain. Judge Teegarden asked, David, are you asking about option 3, \$62,845? He stated yes, if we would cycle that route, what would the timeframe be in changing over? Magistrate Miller asked, am I correct in the \$ 62,845 bid is completely separate from removing the RAS key? DKC stated yes but if you remove the RAS key, as far as the county attorney, and we read the documentation, you'll have to go with AES 256 encryption if you remove the RAS key. Then that quoted work is no longer needed. Magistrate Miller stated if we were doing the RAS key for \$20,000, the \$62,845 bid is not going to be correct, because then you're going to have to go back and rebid the AES256. Correct? DKC stated yes. Judge Teegarden added, let's remember, if we want to take the \$62,845, we have to bid that out because it's over \$40,000. So... And we really need to know what type of encryption we need and all of that, and so that we're able to put proper specs out. Judge Teegarden stated, "I've placed previous minutes in your folder that has a lot of this information about the RAS key, it was divulged in minutes in our meetings to us with fire departments, law enforcement, and everyone present. This is not a secret. We knew the RAS key wouldn't work with Maysville. We knew all the P 25 wouldn't work. It's all in those minutes. Magistrate Ruf stated, it's my understanding if we remove the RAS key, we are out of compliance, and then, basically, we lose our dispatch would we not? Judge Teegarden stated, if we remove the RAS key, we have to put encryption on law. So, you have to have that coverage. County Attorney Moore stated you would still have dispatch; you would just lose your ability to use CJIS. County Attorney Moore stated, the other thing I'm trying to find answers to in a prior, while we fell under exceptions, the newest version does not have exceptions in it, so I'm trying to get answers and find out for sure, but we may have to do this encryption anyway. That the RAS key is not meeting the CJIS requirements as it stands, unfortunately. And that's the difference

between the 2022 version and 2024. Deputy Jones stated, essentially, what we, our radios right now, that we have currently, without being able to transmit what we need to be able to transmit, they're basically very expensive walkie talkies at this point. Judge Teegarden stated, I'm also going to say to Troy, that our sheriff was aware of that and discussions in the minutes. He stated Correct. And like County Attorney Moore just said, back then, when we did this, everything was okay. Right. We were just trying to make a decision to get our guys where they could speak out in the field. But with these new requirements, I don't think anyone's arguing the fact that when we initially spent the money on these radios, there wasn't anyone opposed to the RAS key specifically, because that met the requirement. But as requirements change, that's kind of where we get told what to do versus, this is what we think you should do, or this is what we recommend you should do, especially when it comes to federal regulations and stuff like that when it comes to encryption and all that stuff. So, like County Attorney Moore said, you know, without the exceptions being in there at this point, there really isn't another option. And I've got, you know, notes that Sheriff Boody provided, he's still on board with everything, and he doesn't want us to change radios. You know, obviously, because he specifically puts in here that, you know, we spend a great deal of money to get these radios already up and running. And so, spending a whole ton of money more on getting new radios, new repeaters, and everything else, to completely switch out, I don't think, is on his radar or anything that he is would be for at this point. I think he's more in line with going with options as far as, as the judge said, we would have to bid this out and see who would be able to provide that for us and get some different bids here and get some offers and who can best provide that service for us. That works for everyone, to include talking to our partners over in Mason County. Especially from the law enforcement side, because we use them a lot. Magistrate Kelsch stated I kind of agree with that, and I don't see anything wrong with it. Get different companies with some different options and different ideas to me. Magistrate Holleran asked, my question would be, when we purchased these radios, did you guys know that we weren't going to be able to talk to our adjoining counties? DKC stated Yes, we did share this information very loudly and clearly at all meetings. Judge Teegarden stated it is actually in our minutes, where they told all of us that. DKC stated, you all can talk to anybody around you. They cannot talk to you unless you utilize the analog system. That's it. So. It's like Mason County encrypted law. The law over here could no longer talk to Mason County Law Force. They knew that going into it. That was before you all even switched your radios. Judge Teegarden asked, the 62,845 does not include encryption for law enforcement? DKC stated it does include basic. County Attorney Moore stated basic isn't going to meet our requirements for CJIS. That is the question that needs to be asked whether we have exceptions still or not. County Attorney Moore stated she is not finding them, so she has sent an email, she hasn't gotten a response yet, but she's not finding exceptions in the English 2024 version. DKC stated, basic is not secure enough for what you're all doing. I would recommend enhanced privacy or if it's required, AES 256. County Attorney Moore asked, "Do they have any idea how much that's going to increase the quotes here? DKC stated to enhance privacy, not that much but AES is 256. Considerable. Probably \$60,000 plus. Magistrate Mayfield asked, "Is only law enforcement radios, correct?" DKC stated correct. Magistrate Miller asked Judge Teegarden, is the correct in that you kind of need to look at this as two aspects? One we need to have a separate... issue of the RAS key, \$20,000 to remove it. And secondly, potentially moving forward with the RFP for the entire process of upgrading everything else. Is that correct? Judge Teegarden stated, I believe, if we remove that RAS key, it affects the radios in dispatch as well, so we'll have to come up with some specifications. It will all have to be done at the same time. If we remove that RAS key. DKC stated that it's going to cause considerable downtime here, fire and law responses. Unfortunately, everything will have to come out of the field. Judge Teegarden asked, does this \$20,000 include the radios? DKC stated yes, the \$20,000 is to remove the RAS key out of everything. I just didn't know what encryption we had to go with, so I just didn't even put that on, because the price range is just so broad. Judge Teegarden stated so removing the RAS key, everyone can function, but we still have to get encryption on that law enforcement. And realistically, you would want to do that around the same time. You wouldn't want to remove the RAS key then wait a certain amount of time for encryption, because at that point, I would have to shut down access to CJIS because we would be in violation. So realistically, you want to remove the RAS key and put the encryption on at the same time. Magistrate Miller stated, if that's the case, then, potentially, you wouldn't want two different vendors doing that. Deputy Smith stated you could get a few different vendors but once one has been chosen that vendor has to be certified by the FBI and CJIS regulations. Magistrate Miller stated he doesn't want to try to make a proposal to move forward with removal of the RAS key with them, and then have three or four vendors with an RFP for the other process, and then we come back and someone else gets that, and then you're going to intertwined with everybody trying to work together over two or three days, it might not work. County Attorney Moore stated the best thing would be to figure out exactly what our encryption level is, so then we can put out proper information, the proper specs, from bids. Magistrate Miller asked County Attorney Moore, do you think enhanced privacy and encryption is the minimum starting point? She stated, "I believe so. Judge Teegarden asked, "Are you sure? County Attorney Moore stated no, she is

not sure, she needs to get answers to these questions. It's not always easy getting answers. She would have to get those answers and provide those before we can put them into the quote. Deputy Jones asked just a general question, are we still under the service contract that we had before with DKC? Judge Teegarden stated, yes, the \$5,000 radio maintenance. It's only infrastructure that we have, so removing the RAS key wouldn't be part of that. Magistrate Brumley asked, if we go with bid three, the \$62,000 are Motorola and Kenwood radios compatible? DKC stated yes, because you are not following your system now. You are putting in a repeater for them to access your system. You're still allowing outside agencies and other radio systems on your radios and your system without compromising the network that you currently have. What's wrong or what's causing interference or what's going on. If you if we remove some of the security features of the system, I kind of lose that ability to be able to see what's causing the problem. So, the \$62,000 is not removing the RAS key. DKC stated no, it is putting in a separate repeater with no RAS key at a central tower site that will, for the most part, cover the entire county with mobile coverage. We can go down to Lexington and talk on it or down in Cincinnati and talk on it. But it won't work on portable coverage. DKC stated Parina does work in Milford, but you can't have your radio on your side. You have got to have it up and clear your body free of obstructions with them. So, if one of the Sheriff's deputies had one on their body, not tucked under their vest or whatever, it would work pretty much everywhere for them. Magistrate Ruf stated, from my understanding, talking to the people from T-Mobile, that, you know, their satellite is star link and star link picks up anywhere. DKC stated that you don't really have any coverage issues with the cellular company now. Magistrate Miller stated we need to work with County Attorney Moore, to put an RFP together for removing the RAS key and basically the entire third quote. And possibly changing the basic privacy encryption to enhanced privacy encryption, to try to cover all this, correct? Judge Teegarden stated that is correct. Deputy Jones stated, I think if we're going to do an RFP, I would do the highest level of encryption there. I would want to have two options on that sample. Judge, I'm going to ask a stupid question, just because I'm sitting here and listening to all this, Magistrate Mayfield asked, is the Fiscal Court required to pay for all of this, or is there grant money? Is there a chance that the sheriff pays portion of this? I've only been in an office for three and a half years; how does this normally work? Deputy Jones stated the answer to the grant question is an absolute no, because it's not P25. Judge Teegarden stated that is says that in the meeting minutes as well. Magistrate Mayfield stated we just spent a quarter of a million dollars at the beginning of our term for radios, and now here we are talking about another \$125,000. Judge Teegarden stated I believe we own the system, and the frequencies, we own all the licenses. We basically own everything for Fire, EMS and law for our system. So, when that system is down, it's liability for us to fix. Magistrate Brumley asked DKC if we go with the third quote, which we're going to have because we need to move away from analog, are the radios all going to have to be reprogrammed, if we take the RAS key off? DKC stated if you do the third quote without removing the RAS key no, but if you remove the RAS key, every radio has to be touched. If you do just the third option, without removing the RAS key then no, nothing would really have to be touched in the county. That is only allowing outside agencies access into your system, it doesn't necessarily bother anything of yours directly. So, when you talked about maybe three days of the system down to do that, can the fire departments talk on analog? DKC stated they can, it's just not optimal at all. Craig Hester with the Brooksville Fire Department addressed the court. He stated, our mobile radios and all of the fire and EMS radios will not work on the analog. This was the conversation we had a year or so ago where we found the radios were not programmed right, and we couldn't talk on the Analog Tac one channel, which is the current repeater that we're using for analog. Our mobile radios will not work, our portable radios will work, but the mobiles are not correctly programmed. So, if we have to take RAS key out and we're down for 3 or more days, there needs to be reprogramming done to those mobile radios before this could happen. They are not programmed right. Judge Teegarden stated what she remembers is getting a phone call from you about Air Evac channel. That's right. Because the radios were not programmed right on Tac one. The mobile radios are not working. That's why we went to the Tac 3 for mobile coverage for the Air Evac. There was supposed to be some reprogramming done and never got done. Magistrate Brumley asked, what's Tac? Mr. Hester stated, Tac 1 is the old analog repeater? It is the repeater that is both Augusta and Bluegrass Road. Tac 3 is the old ambulance channel, which is what we've asked for Air Evac. When we 1st started this, we first got it, we were having a lot of trouble on scene talking to Air Evac because the radios were not capable of hearing because they're not programmed right. So that was the discussion. Tac 1 one is not programmed correctly on all the mobile radios, the portable radios are correct. The mobile radios are not. We've corrected that issue by going to the Tac 3 old ambulance channel for fire, ambulance, or for the air helicopter. Magistrate Ruf stated so, until we get this situation covered, you're all good with everybody communicating with everybody? Mr. Hester stated no, I can't. A fire truck can't talk to an ambulance so I'm on the current Tac 1 channel because it's not possible. If we take the radios down to remove the RAS key, going to Tac 1, into that analog repeater, is not a viable option at this point because it's not programmed correctly. Portable to portable will work. Mobile to portable will not work. It's not a new situation. DKC stated that the only thing

that I can say is that Tac 1, analog, is not the repeater channel. In your radios, it is labeled Main analog, and Augusta analog. The repeaters are labeled as what they are, so you know that it's Augusta or it's up here. Tac channels are not repeater channels. County Attorney Moore asked, are you're saying the wrong channels are being used?" According to that statement, yes, they're not using the repeater channels. Deputy Jones stated it's not available on his unless it's in a different zone. Magistrate Miller stated, moving forward, do you want a motion to create an RFP for both of these options? All in one, I believe, is how we need to do it, because if we have multiple vendors providing quotes and estimates to take care of this, I believe that it all needs to be handled as one, not separately. Magistrate Ruf stated It just makes sense to have it all in one person's hands. Magistrate Miller stated I'd like to make a motion to create a request from proposal for the removal of the RAS key, including enhanced privacy, encryption, with all the specifications from the third quote that we currently have. And then we have the second option for a request for a proposal for removing RAS key, as well as the 256-privacy encryption. To be a public bid. Deputy Jones stated the only other question he would have is, would that then give us capability to talk to those other folks that are on P 25 radios versus DMR radios? DKC stated no. I mean, if we're trying to talk DMR to P25 you'll just have to get new radios. It's just not designed to do it and that was made very clear. If the sheriffs are trying to talk back to you Mason County, it would take a P 25 radio with permission to be on their system. Magistrate Mayfield asked Deputy Linville, didn't the gentleman that was here last week say that he's taking care of that? Or was that only for EMS and fire? He stated that it was the EMS and Fire. I will say that as far as the permissions are concerned, Bracken County would have permission, that would be no issue. It is compatibility for the P25 and the DMR system. So, option 3 or whatever you guys were talking about, that still doesn't fix the radio issues. You can still do the quotes from them or other entities and so on and so forth but at the end of the day, it's still the radio itself. It's not designed to talk to the P25 system. The access and all that information from Mason County would be there. You know, that's part of what we would definitely take care of, but it doesn't fix the law enforcement side because of the hardware itself. Magistrate Mayfield asked, in the end, that's the only problem, how does that get addressed? Penny stated that was her concern all along. You can't talk to them then what good does it do? We need to be able to talk. Every department in this county needs to be able to talk to their Mutual aid partner. Magistrate Mayfield asked, so this quote that we're asking for, is that not going to fix that problem? Except for law enforcement. DKC stated, it fixes the problem as long as they have DMR radios, yes. Which, for Mason County, he said that was going to be corrected. Deputy Linville stated they're going to have to purchase the DMR module to go into our radios and that'll be mobile. But that is something that once things move forward then we will be, in turn, moving forward with the maintenance purchase. It's been quoted out to be about \$90 per module. Magistrate Brumley asked to clarify, I thought you stood up and said that still wasn't going to fix the problem. But now you're saying that'll fix the problem, because you all are buying the modules that will fix the problem. Deputy Linville stated there's a couple things going on. I think you've got the RAS key that's on the fire department side that they're trying to get taken care of and that they probably want to be able to communicate with their partners. From our side of things, we have encrypted radios and so on and so forth. The sheriff's office in Bracken County has DMR radios. I'll ask you, so it's addressed in front of the court, can their radios right now access a P25 system. DKC stated absolutely not. Deputy Linville stated they can purchase a module to put into our radios that can talk to a DMR system. But as it stands right now, their radios cannot do that. I don't know if it's necessarily that they, at least from my research, need to have an all-new P 25 system, they need to have different radios itself so that can do like a multiband type thing that can talk to a P25. Sort of like we're buying the module for ours; they can't buy a module for theirs. That's not going to fix the issue. They would have to have a separate piece of hardware, a different radio and at that point, it will then connect to the P25 system. DKC asked if you're going down the hill towards Augusta, or if you're going towards Milford does it change channels automatically, you don't change the channels yourself. Deputy Linville stated that's correct. He stated it's the hardware itself. So, you have the RAS key on the fire side to be able to communicate, and then you have the DMR and the P 25 system. So, we can communicate if they have a different radio that's compatible. He doesn't want Bracken County to spend a bunch of money either. If it's a radio issue, not a whole P25 system. I think there's still some things that need to be looked at before money is spent. Research needs to be done to make sure it's in compliance. And before all that is said and done, it's the research and talking with them and talking with, if you guys wanted other proposals to go that route, whichever way you choose. Nobody's on the same page yet. I think it's getting that portion done and then making that final decision on what actually happens. Judge Teegarden asked, "Is there any further discussion from the court? There is a motion on the floor made by Craig Miller, second by Debbie Mayfield. Yes Votes: Craig Miller, David Kelsch, Debbie Mayfield, John Scott, Heather Brumley, Sandy Ruf

No Votes: Danny Holleran, Judge Teegarden

Absent: Kevin Jarrells

Motion passed

Motion to adjourn made by Heather Brumley, second by Danny Holleran
Yes votes: David Kelsch, Danny Holleran, Debbie Mayfield, Heather Brumley, Judge
Teegarden, Sandy Ruf, Craig Miller, John Scott
Absent: Kevin Jarrells

S/ _____
Jennifer Free, Fiscal Court Clerk

S/ _____
Tina K. Teegarden, Co Judge Executive