



Franklin County
A Natural Setting for Opportunity

Broadband Deployment Plan

Broadband Deployment Plan

BACKGROUND: In May, the Board authorized staff to issue a request for proposal for a wireless network for remote County facilities and to provide high speed internet access to citizens in more remote areas of the County. The concept put forward in the RFP would leverage space on existing County structures, such as the new Grassy Hill Communications tower and other suitable structures in exchange for free or reduced cost network service to the remote County facilities. One proposal was received in July from B2X Online from Salem, Virginia for this service. We feel we have worked out a very good agreement that meets both of our priorities of this RFP.

The County recently received a 2005 Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$56,186 for the purpose of networking our Fire & EMS stations.

DISCUSSION: Staff has developed a plan with B2X as a result of their proposal that will follow a 3 phase implementation. Phase 1 would involve further developing the Grassy Hill communications site for wireless services, constructing a small tower at the Callaway Fire & Rescue building and providing service there, adding high speed internet service to the Burnt Chimney Fire Department and to the Red Valley Rescue Squad building and a network connection to the County Administration complex. Existing service is provided by B2X to Parks & Recreation offices, General Properties and to Franklin County Rescue Squad building. In exchange for these services from B2X, the County would allow B2X access to our tower on Grassy Hill for distribution on a commercial basis.

Phase 2 of the project would involve developing a proposed tower on Chestnut Mountain just off of Sontag Road in the Snow Creek District. B2X has offered to donate a 120 foot tower structure to the County for us on our new Public Safety Radio System with the understanding they will have access to the tower for their wireless internet business usage. The County would be responsible for erecting the tower and providing electrical service to the site with the funding for this part of the project included in the Radio System project. Negotiations are currently under way for easements and a property lease for this site. B2X has also offered to provide network service from this tower to the Snow Creek Fire and Snow Creek Rescue facilities and the Fork Mountain Fire & Rescue building. Homeland Security grant funding will be used to construct a small tower at the Fork Mountain Fire & Rescue building for this connection. The Chestnut Mountain site would enable most Citizens of the Snow Creek District access to high speed internet service.

Phase 3 would involve the development of an existing commercial tower on Briar Mountain and the proposed American Electric Power Company tower on Cook's Knob for wireless service. This part of the project is still pending other approvals and is in negotiations. Service from these two locations would be provided to other remote County facilities and would provide high speed internet service to a good portion of Henry, Fork Mountain, Ferrum, and other areas. Another small tower will be required to gain access to the Henry Fire facility under this phase.

Appendix B

Primary Franklin Site Locations

Phase 1 of installation

Grassy Hill Radio Site 350 Grassy Hill Road Rocky Mount, VA 24151	Franklin County Parks & Recreation 2150 Sontag Road Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Franklin County Public Library (Relay only) 355 Franklin Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151	Franklin County General Properties 40 West Church St Suite 100 Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Franklin County Administrative Complex 40 East Court Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151	Squad 2 – Franklin County Rescue Squad 85 West Court Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Company 9 – Burnt Chimney Fire Department 7300 Booker T. Washington Hwy Moneta, VA 24121	Squad 9 – Red Valley Rescue Squad 2885 Jubal Early Hwy Boones Mill, VA 24065
Company 5/Squad 5 (Tower installed by Franklin) Callaway Fire & Rescue Department 8380 Callaway Road Callaway, VA 24067	

Phase 2 of installation

Chestnut Mountain/Tom's Knob Radio Site TBD Snow Creek Area of County	Squad 6 – Snow Creek Rescue Squad 7081 Snow Creek Road Penhook, VA 24137
Company 6 – Snow Creek Fire Department 7049 Snow Creek Road Penhook, VA 24137	

Phase 3 of installation

(To be completed only after development of other commercial tower sites through an additional agreement or addendum to this agreement)

Company 4 – Glade Hill Fire Department 6680 Old Franklin Tpke Glade Hill, VA 24092	Squad 4 – Glade Hill Rescue Squad 5090 Old Franklin Tpke Glade Hill, VA 24092
Company 8/Squad 8 Fork Mountain Fire & Rescue 2805 Virgil H. Goode Hwy Rocky Mount, VA 24151	Company 10/Rescue 10 Scruggs Fire & Rescue 2130 Blue Water Drive Moneta, VA 24121
Company 11 – Smith Mountain Lake Marine Fire Department 400 Scruggs Road, Suite 201	