



Internal Memorandum

Date: 02/21/2024

To: Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer
Department of County Administration

From: Timothy Mayotte, Chief Information Officer
Department of Technology and Communication Services



Subject: Written Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement
Conveyance of Radio Equipment

The Department of Technology and Communications Services (DTCS) has upgraded the radio system to use the county's fiber network. The radio system previously used a microwave network for communications. Howard County no longer uses the microwave network.

The microwave network is currently used by Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) for communications with hospitals, including Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.

The microwave network is over 20 years old as it was installed in 1999. Support is becoming difficult to maintain as the network relies on outdated technology and parts are becoming difficult to find. The microwave network would need to be upgraded to provide reliable communication services.

MIEMSS would like to assume ownership of the microwave network and upgrade it. DTCS would like to convey ownership of the network equipment to the State of Maryland. This conveyance of ownership is mutually beneficial to both the State of Maryland and Howard County.

Fiscal Impact

Howard County would avoid deinstallation costs of the outdated microwave equipment, which would cost an estimated \$30,000 per site. Totaled across the county's 11 sites, deinstallation would cost approximately \$330,000. Transfer to MIEMSS would avoid this cost.