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IMMEDIATE USE PRESS RELEASE

TYPE: Communications Change to 800 Mhz
DATE OF RELEASE: January 20, 2017
DATE AND TIME OCCURRED: January 19, 2017 at 6:00pm
LOCATION: Kalkaska County

INFORMATION: Sheriff Pat Whiteford reports that on 1/19/17 the 800 Mhz system went live for all Kalkaska County law enforcement agencies.

In the spring of 2016, Kalkaska Central Dispatch began developing a plan to implement 800 Mhz radio systems for all public safety in Kalkaska County. This decision was made after the state of Michigan eliminated the microphone fees which were previously a reoccurring costs to agencies wanting to utilize the State of Michigan's 800 Mhz system. The use of the VHF high band system that was installed in 1999, limited the talk range of law enforcement within Kalkaska County and in particular, limited our ability to communicate with our neighboring counties who were already utilizing the 800 Mhz system.

911 authority funds and homeland security grants were utilized to fund this three phase project. Phase one consisted of the upgrade to Kalkaska Central Dispatch and 800 Mhz mobiles and portables to the Kalkaska Sheriff Deputies, Garfield Township Police Department and the Kalkaska Village Department of Public Safety. Phase two will equip the EMS services with 800 Mhz mobiles and portables by the end of 2017. Phase three will be to equip the township fire departments with mobiles and portables by the end of 2018.

The costs associated with phase one were \$146,000 of which \$41,000 was utilized for upgrades to Central Dispatch and signal amplification. \$105,000 was spent on mobile and portable radios for the three law enforcement agencies within Kalkaska County.

The change to 800 Mhz will dramatically increase interoperability with law enforcement, EMS and fire services not only between various local agencies but with our neighboring counties and those across the state as well.

APPROVED BY;
PAT WHITEFORD, SHERIFF