

However, within the applications received, RCPD was unable to fill the vacancy. Due to the urgency and need for crime analysis, an agency was located, Bair Analytics, to perform crime analysis for RCPD. This agency provides crime analysis nationwide. Their fee is slightly more expensive than salary and benefits for an employee. A one year contract was signed until a suitable person is found.

Wells moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jankovich seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 7-0.

IV. General Agenda:

F. Additions or Deletions: None.

G. Public Comment: None.

H. Awards Presentation: Director Schoen presented Life Saving Awards to Officer Michael Parr, Richard Paynter and Drew Riffel in recognition of their efforts on February 6, 2013 while providing critical lifesaving assistance. On February 6, 2013 a fire was intentionally set within an occupied apartment building resulting in the death of one of the tenants, a Kansas State University graduate Student. The multi-level apartment building was occupied by numerous other tenants and guests when arsonists poured gasoline in the basement and lit the building on fire. The building rapidly filled with toxic smoke, fire, and extreme heat.

Citizens Richard Paynter and Drew Riffel were near the location and rushed to assist by working with Officer Michael Parr. The three quickly went into action and ensured occupants from all three levels were able to find their way to safety through windows and over balconies. All of the remaining tenants were able to escape without injury due to their efforts.

Detective Brian Johnson was assigned as the lead investigator for this case and worked tirelessly to identify those responsible for this senseless act. Detective Johnson obtained and coordinated investigative information not only from the RCPD's group of investigators but also from several other local, state, and federal investigative agencies. Detective Johnson remained steadfast beyond the initial arrests ensuring that all of the perpetrators were successfully prosecuted for their crimes. For his actions he was presented with a Meritorious Service Award.

Director Schoen presented Meritorious Service Awards to each of the below individuals in recognition of their devotion to duty and diligence on behalf of the Riley County Police Department as well as the Citizens of Riley and Geary Counties. On May 8, 2013, 54 search warrants were executed. The search warrants were the direct result of "Operation ADABAG" which focused upon the regional distribution of crack cocaine. The "ADABAG" investigation was ongoing for several months and ultimately resulted in the arrest of 90 people who were involved with the distribution of crack cocaine. The "ADABAG" operation is the largest of its type ever conducted in Riley County and the efforts of the investigators has left a significant impact upon those involved in the distribution of illegal drugs.

The self-initiative, attention to detail, and work ethic of Sergeant Lucas Breault, Officer Emmett Smith, Officer Michael Parr, Detective Nathan Boeckman and Detective Robert Dierks is unsurpassed and greatly appreciated by the Riley County Police Department and the Citizens of Riley and Geary Counties.

I. IACP/Sprint Excellence in Law Enforcement Research Award: Director Schoen explained RCPD received the Bronze Award. Schoen provided history; several months ago Dr. Susan Williams presented the results of her study titled “Operation: Laser Point”. Dr. Williams’ report provided extensive information. Captain Hegarty requested this report be submitted to the International Association of Chiefs of Police to use to compete in the Sprint Excellence in Law Enforcement competition. This competition is international in scope. The law enforcement agency that won the gold award was from Kent, England. The intention of the award is to recognize those who further the cause of research into policing and come up with solutions to problems. We are proud that RCPD won the Bronze award.

Congratulations received from Chairman Matta and the Board.

J. Approval of General Orders:

- a) GO 2013-052 Entry Level Probation
- b) GO 2013-053 Evaluations- Entry Level Probationary Employees

Assistant Director Doehling explained the change to the two general orders stating it is necessary to bring these policy changes before the Board because they were previously under contract. The Board is required to approve the changes of these two particular policies under RCPD policy.

GO 2013-053 – involves evaluation and probationary employees. The only change is half of this policy was moved from this location to another more applicable policy location, 32-210 the policy dealing with entry level probation. The primary change delineated the probationary period for non-sworn personnel. There are two types of non-sworn personnel training programs. One is a more formal training program and the other is on-the-job training. In either case, when those two training periods are complete a non-sworn person on probation will remain on probation for 12 months. For sworn personnel, they are retained on probation for 12 months at the conclusion of their formal training which could end up considerably longer than 12 months; it may last for a year and a half. A sworn officer attends the Kansas Law Enforcement training Center; returns to RCPD and enters RCPD formal police officer training program. Once this is complete, they are promoted from recruit status to Police Officer status. They remain on probation for 12 months from that point.

Jankovich moved to approve the General Orders as presented. Lewis seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 7-0.

K. Communications Infrastructure: Director Schoen and Pat Collins, Emergency Preparedness Director, explained to the Board communications are becoming an issue. The following agencies are involved in a monthly meeting regarding communications: RCPD, Pat Collins as the Emergency Preparedness Director and Rural Fire Director; Manhattan Fire Department and EMS. There are a number of things that contribute to the communications problems. RCPD has put forth efforts to control what is possible to control. Director Schoen asked Pat Collins to speak to the Board.

Collins – Riley County has a multitude of systems to tie everyone to the 911 system:

- RCPD has two different voter repeater systems which collect the signals from everybody, select the strongest signal and that system is transmitted out.
- The Manhattan Fire Department has a voter repeater system similar to RCPD.
- EMS has a pair of repeaters, one north and one south.
- Riley County Fire has a pair of repeaters – one north and one south.
- City Public Works has their own system and County Public Works has their own system.

What we have seen is the VHF, which includes all agencies with the exception of City Public Works which is on UHF; the agency was mandated to meet the narrow banding standards. With the narrow banding standards, we found the signals to be half the width they used to be. The narrow banding standards should have proven a 5%-7% reduction in coverage but have found a 25%-30% reduction in coverage within the county. RCPD is receiving numerous complaints from officers and dispatchers losing signals or not having a signal at all and I am receiving complaints from EMS techs and firefighters.

We are looking at ways to solve this problem. RCPD's main channel was completely upgraded this year improving signal strength by 1-2% but the strength is not where it needs to be. We need to look at this issue to improve the current needs as well as future needs. Collins is meeting with the County Commission on Thursday, November 21, 2013, to discuss this subject. One consideration is to prepare an RFP to hire an independent contractor to conduct a study to describe and suggest the needs for the future.

Director Schoen explained the problem is becoming a safety concern for officers. In a recent incident, two officers were in an area where coverage was a problem. These officers were attempting to place someone under arrest who was resisting. The officers could not make contact with dispatch to request backup. My concern is this is going to get worse in the future with more coverage reduction on the horizon. Since the current system dates back to the 70-80's, the correction to this problem will not be inexpensive. I placed this on the agenda today to make you aware as county and city commissioners. The primary concern is for the safety of the public. I agree with Pat's idea to find someone to conduct an independent assessment of the current system and the future needs but this person should not be a vendor.

Commission Butler inquired if anyone has drawn a map reflecting the locations of the nodes for the 4 agencies to include the dead space areas?

Director Schoen responded, yes, RCPD has a map and understands this information would be provided to the chosen independent contractor to assist in their study.

Collins explained each ambulance has a portable repeater because when they are in an area of dead space, they use the portable repeater to talk to the ambulance which talks to the system and it works most of the time but there are still areas in the county where they lose their signal.

Butler inquired if there is any consideration to consolidate systems. The County and the City have talked about areas to consolidate and it appears this may be an area to consider. Is it possible Homeland Security communications could integrate all four systems?

Collins stated, in 2005, we started talking about a digital trunk system that anybody could use. Once we built it for the emergency agencies, we may be able to bring the school district in and city and county public works, maybe other emergency services. Currently, we have six systems, all separate and anybody can talk on each person's channel. However, we don't utilize the system as we could if it were consolidated into one trunk system.

Director Schoen explained what a trunk system is. Currently, each agency is assigned a frequency to communicate. If you want to talk to another agency, you access their frequency in order to communicate. In a trunk system, there are frequencies available in a pool and if you want to talk, you are assigned a group, think group email. The system is programmed for group "A" to talk to each other without group "B" hearing group "A" but they are all on the same frequency.

Collins explained we are building onto the system every time we purchase a radio. The new radios have digital capabilities to allow us to incorporate into a digital trunk system in the future.

Matta asked how do you see this moving forward? Place this topic on the City/County agenda?

Schoen responded consideration to place this topic on the City/County agenda or something similar to the unveiling of consolidated dispatch which was presented at the Intergovernmental Luncheon. Schoen suggested presenting this topic to the group with the most elected officials present.

Jankovich added it seems to begin with the City and County since it is mostly emergency management then down the road, Intergovernmental to tie in the school districts, etc. and all the public works. Need to start here because the costs are going to begin with these two governing bodies first.

Schoen explained the original concept is to build this system where the coverage requirements are the most severe with future expansion. It is best to hold off on the school districts and other municipalities for now. They may be added at a future time.

Collins added, currently most of the funding comes from 911 monies. We maintain the infrastructure for the emergency services. I don't see this dwindling but according to the 911 Council there will no longer be grants available as in the past.

Jankovich added, we are unique in that we have a consolidated police department, a county wide EMS, a county fire, a city fire and so we are consistently crossing jurisdictions. The 911 is mostly maintenance, it is not rebuilding an infrastructure so it appears to be apples to oranges. The 911 monies probably allows for maintenance for a new system. Our concern is what it is going to cost and how do we build the new towers, repeaters, all the components for a new infrastructure.

Schoen commented regarding the uncertainty of a statutory basis for control and maintenance costs falling to the county or not but we can explore the options.

Jankovich suggested this information should come out of the analysis; what is it that has to be done, what are we going to do to maintain it and who is overall responsible which will probably create some City/County/RCPD agreement and then whoever else becomes involved as we roll it out. I agree that the emergency area should be first and grow it from there. We still need to come up with a way to handle it and may include Pottawatomie County because we cross city lines. That is why I

believe City/County Meeting is a good place to begin, it brings the three primary governing bodies together of the areas to be covered.

Schoen added, if you go to expand the coverage area to include Pottawatomie County, you will double the geographic area of coverage and double the cost. It is one thing to pay for a system here in Riley County but in order for Pottawatomie County to be interested, they need to have issues with their current system. Secondly, the contribution you would get from them probably wouldn't be but 50% and the costs would probably double. Historically speaking, the infrastructure has been paid for and provided by the county but all the individual entities, such as RCPD, Manhattan Rural Fire, EMS, Manhattan Fire Dept. all provide their own equipment to use on the system. I don't think I am speaking out of turn when I say the emergency service directors believe it is an okay way of doing things. On the infrastructure end, we need to figure who pays what where and which funding mechanism makes sense.

Jankovich suggested building the system to be compatible.

Collins agreed, the City/County is where we need to begin. The consultant will provide the suggested areas to place the towers to improve coverage.

Matta recognized a general consensus to place this topic on City/County agenda. Matta inquired about the possibility of Homeland Security monies or grants. Historically they offered monies to get cities and municipalities on common communications systems and I don't know if those monies exist.

Collins added there is money out there but the communications normally doesn't buy infrastructure. There may be a light at the end of the tunnel with NBAF coming and a joint venture of communications in place.

Boyd suggested bringing in the Flint Hills Regional Council when we hold the City/County meeting, they may provide information regarding available grants.

Matta commented the agenda is set by both boards, alternating months. It is possible to place this subject on the December meeting.

L. Health Insurance Update: Captain Hegarty provided a brief description regarding the selection of the health care coverage. Blue Cross/Blue Shield was chosen as the third party administrator and insurance carrier for 2014. For information purposes only, we provided the options for 2014 submitted by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and The Herrington plan. Selecting Blue Cross/Blue Shield, we should come out better than this year.

M. Executive Session: At 12:37 p.m. Jankovich moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing attorney client privilege and non-elected personnel matters not to exceed 10 minutes. Boyd seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 7-0.

At 12:47 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

N. Affirmation or Revocation of Discipline: Wilkerson moved to affirm the Director's disciplinary actions. Jankovich seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 7-0.

O. Adjournment: Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:51p.m. Wilkerson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 7-0. The November 18, 2013 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.