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January 15, 2026

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The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC) to amend the accept and expend for \$4,878,000 in funds received from the U.S. Department of Justice under the FY24 COPS Office Technology and Equipment Program, by extending the end date from March 31, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The original grant was approved by the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council on January 30, 2025 (FIS 25-021) and February 5, 2025 (Item #104), respectively and subsequently extended on September 5, 2025 (FIS 25-179) and Governor and Council on August 27, 2025, Item #74 through March 31, 2026. Effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Federal Funds.**

EXPLANATION

This extension will authorize the continuation of the work currently being accomplished by the DESC to design a modernized NHICnet with microwave radios and associated networking equipment with more intelligent and secure components that will improve NHICnet's redundancy, resiliency, and management capability.

Phase I of NHICnet is well underway. To date forty-two of the forty-eight microwave radio links have been installed (88% complete). Phase II of NHICnet is currently in progress, which will upgrade the state's microwave radio network. Network equipment is actively being staged and configured. Equipment shipments are underway to the Concord facility with stage one of four equipment deliveries complete. Phase III is in progress and focused on Communications Site Infrastructure Hardening. Seven HVAC units are being replaced. Locations include Blue Job, Hyland Hill, the Incident Planning and Operations Center (IPOC) tower shelter, Kearsarge Mountain, Pitcher Mountain, Tenney Mountain, and Whittier Mountain. Additionally, installing Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems and battery plants located at the IPOC as well as waveguide dehydrators, fiber circuit construction, and network management servers. Phase IV includes a Managed Detection and Response (MDR) solution. Requests for proposals (RFP) have been completed and contract negotiations are currently in process.

To date sixteen purchase orders have been issued, with approximately 87% of total grant funds being committed through executed purchase orders and contracts.

The consequence of not completing this project will result in loss of system uptime, reduced redundancies which will impact law enforcement and first responder safety and public confidence we currently maintain in New Hampshire's collective response to emergency calls for service.

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DESC continues to take a thoughtful and fiscally prudent phased approach to the modernization of the communication network to ensure the highest system reliability and confidence in communications capability for all first responders who rely on this network. All project activities remain aligned with the original grant objectives, and no changes to the project scope are being requested.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this project.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety