

Approved: May 10, 2005
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 12:00 P.M. on March 24, 2005 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jean Schodorf- excused

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes

J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst

Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Deb Miller, Secretary Kansas Department Transportation

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Taddiken, to introduce a bill concerning personal property taxation; relating to reporting errors; correction and refund authority of county (5rs1194). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to introduce a conceptual bill requested by Senator Barone regarding school finance. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger turned the committee's attention to consideration of:

SB 90--Payment of costs of litigation in civil commitment of sex predator cases

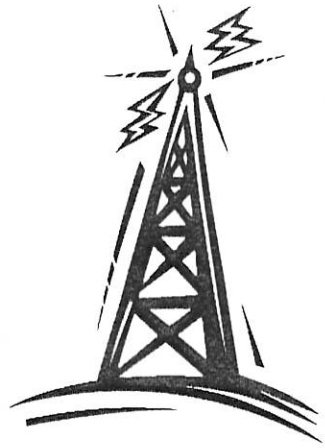
Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Senator Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to report **SB 90** favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

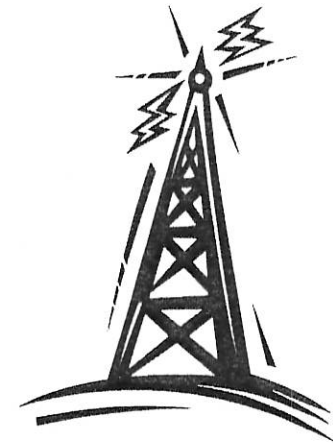
Chairman Umbarger welcomed Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation, who gave an overview of the Statewide Communications System Improvement Effort Update including an update on federal funding (Attachment 1). Committee discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2005.

Statewide Communications System Improvement Effort Update



2005





Statewide Communication Problem

- **Emergency responders can't effectively communicate during crisis**
- **KDOT recognized opportunity for improvement using existing infrastructure**
 - **\$36 million invested in communication system statewide**
 - **Previously only public safety entities using 800 MHz radios could access system**



Recent Accomplishments

- **KDOT approached 2004 Legislature with more open view**
- **HB 2756 passed (2004) to improve communications across Kansas**
 - **Allows KDOT to lease tower space to non-KDOT users (public and private)**
 - **Provides KDOT a mechanism to lease radios to public safety agencies**
- **Temporary communications solution**
 - **Mobile emergency response towers/trailers**



HB 2756

Specifically authorizes KDOT to:

- **Purchase and lease communication system equipment to public safety agencies**
- **Establish the communication system revolving fund**
- **Authorize the issuance of revenue bonds**



Current Status

- **Moving forward to implement HB 2756**
- **Radio Business Plan completed**
- **Rules and regulations in final approval stages**
- **Radio lease costs and access fees being studied**
- **Regional forums were held with public safety entities**



Regional Forums

- **Public safety entities recognize the need for improved communications systems**
- **Many worry about being able to afford new equipment**
- **Some public safety entities want to use existing equipment as much as possible while others want to upgrade**



Limitations of HB 2756

- **Broader use of 800 MHz incrementally improves situation by allowing 800 MHz users to talk within a region**
- **Does not allow responders to communicate between regions**
- **Lease costs still too high for many local responders**
- **Analysis indicated making system improvements provides greater statewide benefits**



Options To Improve Statewide Communication

- Option 1: Open tower space and lease radios (HB 2756)
- Option 2: Upgrade current system to statewide trunked 800 MHz system
- Option 3: Upgrade current system to interoperable statewide trunked 800 MHz system

Funding for all options is yet to be identified

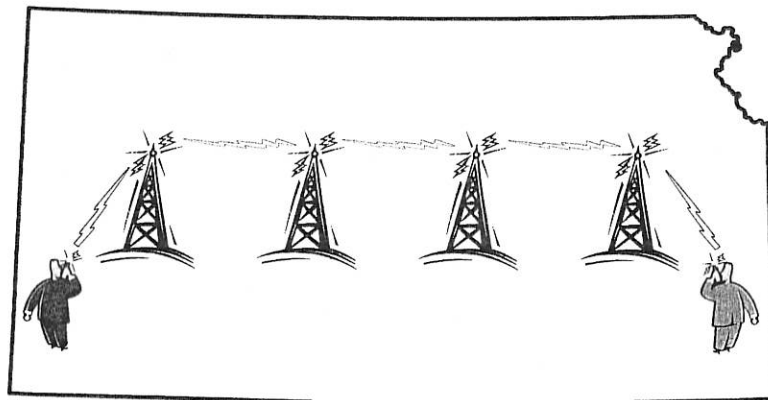


Option 1: Open Tower Space and Lease Radios (HB 2756)

- **Helps some local agencies upgrade to 800 MHz radio**
- **More 800 MHz users improve communication**
- **Lease payments may still be too costly**
- **Costs depend on level of interest local agencies have in leasing radios**



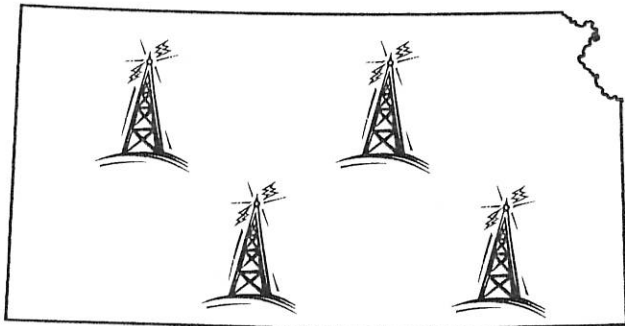
Option 2: Upgrade to a Statewide Trunked 800 MHz System



- Provides seamless communication between towers for 800 MHz users
- Provides integrated voice and data capability for 800 MHz users
- Allows greater user capacity
- Have to have 800 MHz radios to use system
- Concern not enough leasers to retire debt



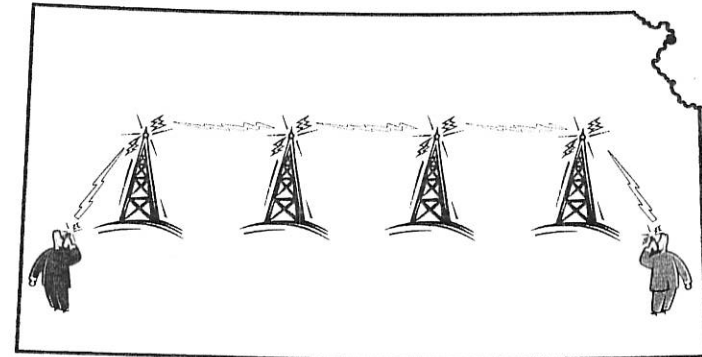
Option 3: Upgrade to an Interoperable Statewide Trunked 800 MHz System



Non 800 MHz System



Statewide Trunked 800 MHz



Increases cost of system infrastructure, but because most non-800 MHz radios can continue to be used, overall cost may be lower. Fewer radios leased so a funding mechanism is needed.



Recommendation

- **Option 3 – upgrade to interoperable statewide trunked 800 MHz system**
- **Local emergency responders can use improved system without buying 800 MHz radios**
- **Provides true interoperability**
- **Funding is an issue**

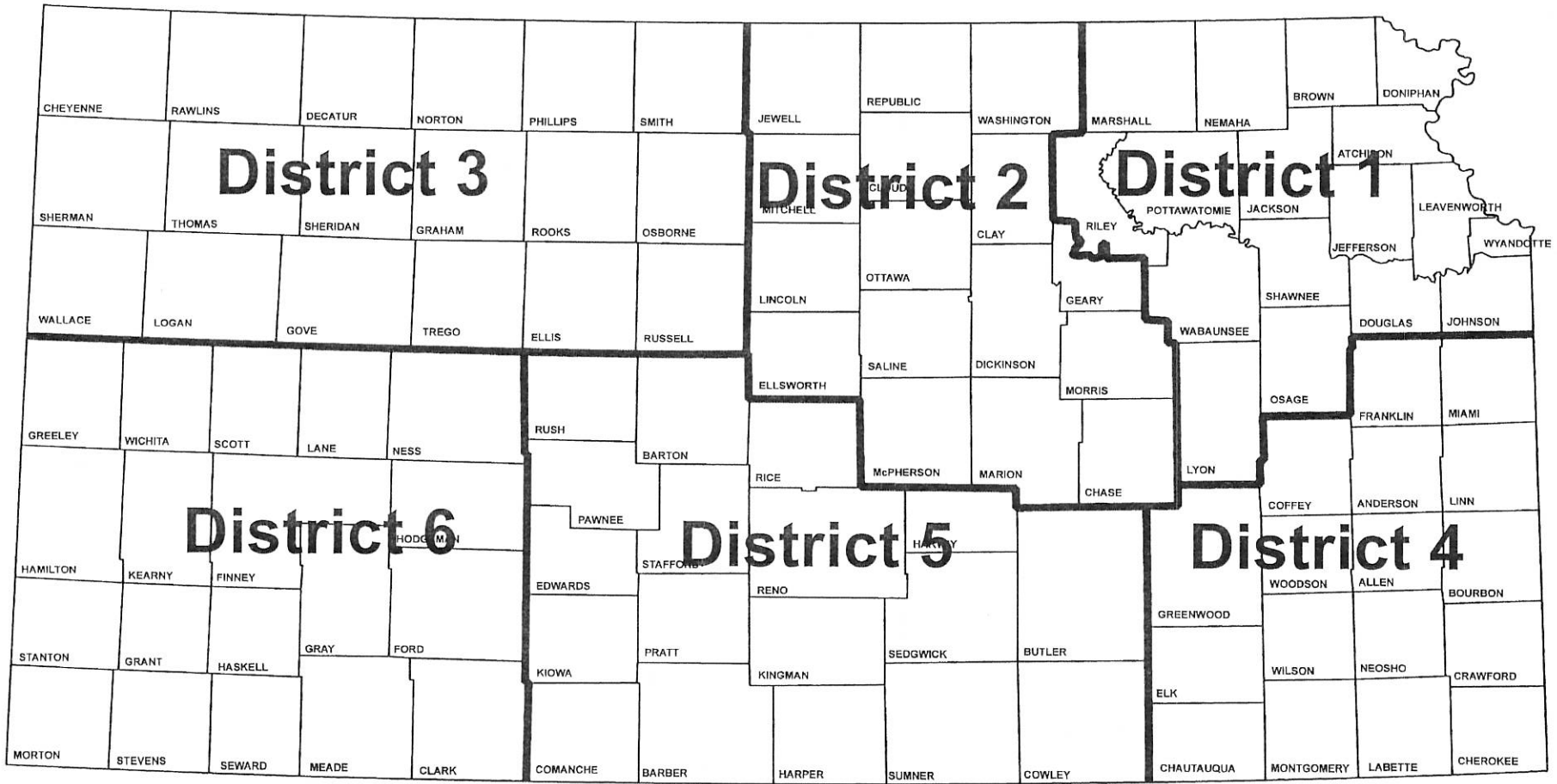


Recommendation: Funding Approach and Location

- **One-time funds have been accumulated for a system upgrade in a pilot district**
 - **Pilot recommendation is to upgrade Southeast Kansas first due to the critical infrastructure (Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant)**
- **Upgrade region by region (using KDOT's existing infrastructure and districts) as funds are available**



District Map





Funding Approach - 2005

Estimated Startup Cost

- Initial est. for leasing radios/tower space* \$ 2 M + ?
- Equipment upgrade costs (SEK/District 4) \$16 M
- Microwave backbone \$ 3 M

Estimated Cost \$ 21 M

Funds available

- KDOT-Fed Safety Funds \$ 8 M
- Fed Homeland Security Funds \$ 5.3 M
- KHP/ODP (one time dollars - Sept '05 Deadline)
- KDOT radio budget (FY 05 & 06) \$ 4 M
- *Issue debt to fund radios? \$ __ ?

Currently Available \$ 17.3 M



Funding Approach (con't)

- **Working to secure additional federal funds for Pilot Project**
 - Request to Congress for \$3 million
- **Considering using authority provided in HB 2756 to issue debt to pay for initial purchase of radios/equipment to lease**
- **A funding source is needed to upgrade remainder of state**



Closing the Funding Gap – Beyond 2005

- **Seek additional Federal funds
(Congressional earmarks and Homeland
Security funds)**
- **Explore other funding options**



Commitment to Security and Emergency Communications

- **Governor established Homeland Security Council**
- **Council identified communication as a top priority and allocated \$4M federal funds for this effort**
- **\$36 million already invested in statewide communication infrastructure**
- **Non-partisan support of HB 2756**