

DICKINSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

109 E. 1st Street
Abilene, Kansas 67410

JERRY J. DAVIS JR.
SHERIFF



February 2, 2023

The Honorable Caryn Tyson
Kansas State Senate
P.O. Box 191
Parker, KS 66072

Dear Senator Tyson,

As the current Sheriff of Dickinson County I am writing you to urge your support in upgrading the radio system for all of the first responders in our county - fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and police. Our county has a local advisory board that supports our emergency communications center. The board is represented by members of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. This board has been tasked with researching, purchasing and implementing an upgraded county-wide radio system to facilitate the needs of all protocols. The need is abundantly obvious as our current radio system is insufficient to serve the needs of our citizens.

To facilitate the implementation of an updated/modern 800 MHz communication system our county requires funds over and above what we currently have, or will be able to obtain, through standard processes. We have identified the need for a 0.25% sales tax increase to assist in funding the project. It is my understanding that in order to allow the citizens of Dickinson County the right to choose or reject the sales tax increase, we need legislative authority to present this matter to the public and let them decide whether or not this additional tax is necessary.

I cannot stress to you enough the need for an upgraded radio system. Often our deputies have difficulties communicating, or cannot reach our communications center entirely, and this can present an extremely dangerous, if not life-threatening, situation. I know our fire service personnel suffer from the same difficulties.

Our local EMS service has operated on our antiquated system, however several years ago they were able to obtain an 800 MHZ radio for the ambulances and a base station for the communications center. That alternate system has proven its effectiveness. We simply need to have a radio system that allows effective communication among the different protocols and among the several local and state entities that assist us on a routine basis. As it stands now, we have no direct radio access with our surrounding law enforcement partners nor with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

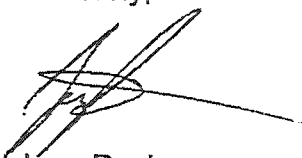
109 E. 1st Street Abilene, KS 67410
Office: 785-263-4081
Fax: 785-263-1512

The ability to protect and serve the citizens of Dickinson County is my paramount concern. I feel it is my duty and responsibility, as is the responsibility of the communications officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel to ensure the safety and protection of our citizens. This responsibility is extremely difficult without the means to effectively communicate in an emergency situation.

I urge you to support the ability of our local residents to decide whether a 0.25% sales tax increase is necessary, and am asking you support the proposed amendment to Kansas Statute Annotated 12-187(b)(35) – Senate Bill number 127.

If you or your staff would like additional information regarding this matter, please contact me directly. I can be reached 24-hours a day by cell phone, 785-280-3763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Davis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerry Davis
Sheriff