



TOWN GRAY
GRAY TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
AGENDA • OCTOBER 19, 2021

**Gray Town
Council Workshop**

Online via Zoom
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89146574658>

6:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, the Town Council meeting will NOT take place in person. The meeting will be held online with the link provided the day of the meeting.

CALL to ORDER

Roll Call

WORKSHOP 6:00 PM - 6:55 PM

Discussion on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

** The Town of Gray is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable equal access to public accommodations law. If you are planning to attend a Town Council or Town committee or board meeting and need assistance with a physical disability, please contact the Town Manager's office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to have the Town assist you. 657-3339. TTY 657-3931.*



Gray Fire Rescue

Town of Gray

Protecting the Crossroads of Maine since 1880



Subject: ARPA request

Topic: Radio Field Equipment Upgrade and Redundancy.

Issue: Our equipment in the field is quickly nearing its “end of life”. Meaning that software upgrades, support and spare parts will no longer be produced.

(Our current vendor has put considerable time and effort into developing the following plan and due to the time constraints has not charged us an upfront fee for this investigative work.)

Background: We originally had a spot on the radio tower at the Maine State Police Barracks here in Gray. When they replaced that tower, we were told that they wanted to keep it exclusively for their equipment. We then moved our transmitter to the Gray Water Tower on Yarmouth Rd. Since then, we have experienced a degradation in coverage and reach of our radio transmissions. Currently we have three sites that receive our transmissions, send them to the water tower and then are transmitted back out to us and to dispatch at a much higher power. The three sites we currently have are the water tower, a spot on a small tower next to the WPXT tower and one at Central Fire Station.

Direction: I gave our current vendor instructions to come up with a plan to improve our coverage up the I95 corridor at least as far the hospitals in Lewiston, lessen our dead spots here in Gray and increase our portable radio coverage inside large buildings near the center of Town. Portable radios are not as powerful as the mobile radios mounted in our trucks and are used inside buildings to speak with command outside the building or to dispatch on medical calls. This is a critical area in need of improvement. If you study “Line of Duty Deaths” communications such as these are a common denominator. For an additional cost of about \$5,000.00 we can make an additional site a “master site” that can act as a secondary means of transmitting through the simulcast system should the water tank site go down. This would make the system much more resilient however that cost is not included in the amount below.

Plan: The plan we came up with is contingent upon getting permission to add equipment to the State Police tower here in Gray (Gray RCC). State police have indicated they may be willing provided we make sure our equipment does not cause interference with theirs. This will be a topic of discussion at their meeting the end of October.

We currently only transmit from our water tower site. If we move forward with this project we will transmit from the Water tower site, Gray RCC site, Central Station and the WPXT site. This type of system is called a simulcast system and will greatly improve coverage inside large buildings as well as reach up the I95 corridor. Our current vendor will be prepared to make a presentation at a future council meeting.

Cost: At today’s prices a cost of about \$200,000.00 is the estimate for this project.