



Southland Communications Center

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To: Board of Directors

From: Executive Director Kowalski

Date: May 6, 2026

Subject: Intergovernmental Tower Use Agreements

Southland utilizes member owned infrastructure to support mission-critical radio communications. These agreements were originally established in 2005 under the predecessor agency, E-COM, and were renewed in 2016 in accordance with Public Act 99-0006, including expansion to additional members. The current draft agreement has been reviewed and provided by Attorney Kelly.

The agreement authorizes Southland to install, operate, and maintain communications equipment on member facilities in support of police and fire operations. They provide twenty-four hour access, require each party to bear its own costs, and establish defined maintenance and liability provisions. The agreement also includes automatic annual renewal with a ninety-day termination provision. These terms reflect long-standing operational practices and ensure continued system reliability and interoperability.

Formal approval and execution of these agreements under Southland will transition and reaffirm legacy E-COM infrastructure agreements within the current governance structure, ensure uninterrupted access to critical communications infrastructure, provide legal clarity and consistency across all member units of local government, and maintain alignment with statutory requirements and intergovernmental cooperation standards following consolidation. The agreements are administrative in nature, carry no direct financial obligation between the parties, and represent a continuation of existing operational relationships.

Approval is recommended to authorize intergovernmental tower use agreements with all members and to place the executed agreements on file. Consider a motion to approve and authorize the intergovernmental tower use agreements between Southland and its members.