

# Walton County Department Agenda Request

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Department Name: **EMA**

Department Head/Representative: **Carl Morrow**

Meeting Date Request: **8/6/2024**

Has this topic been discussed at past meetings? **No**

If so, When? **N/A**

TOPIC: **HMP Message Board Grant**

Wording For Agenda: **Message Board Grant**

This Request: **Informational Purposes Only** Needs Action by Commissioners\* **Vote to proceed with the grant**

\*What action are you seeking from the Commissioners? **Vote to proceed**

Department Comments/Recommendation: **This grant is a 75% GEMA/FEMA with a 25% County match**

Additional Documentation Attached? **yes**

Is review of this request or accompanying documentation by the County Attorney required? **No**

If so, has a copy of the documentation been forwarded to County Attorney? **No**

Date forwarded to County Attorney: **N/A**

Has the County Attorney review been completed? **N/A**

If this request involves the expenditure of county funds, please answer the following:

Approved in current budget?**No**

Budget information attached?

Comments: **The grant is a reimbursment grant**

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Purchasing Department Comments:

County Attorney Comments:

Chairman's Comments:

## **Project Proposal for Digital Portable Messaging Boards for Public Emergency Communication**

### **Project Title:**

Enhancing Public Safety through Portable Digital Messaging Boards for Emergency Communication

### **Project Summary:**

This proposal seeks funding to acquire portable digital messaging boards to enhance public safety and improve emergency communication capabilities within Walton County. These boards will be deployed during emergencies or large-scale public events to provide real-time information, instructions, and updates to residents and visitors, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to various types of emergencies.

Secondary use cases can include communicating public project information, such as road construction detours, upcoming public events that will likely create traffic disruptions, water or air quality advisories, and contact information for public inquiry to major incidents.

### **Organization Overview:**

The Walton County Emergency Management Agency is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. We are committed to improving our emergency management infrastructure and capabilities to effectively respond to natural disasters, technological hazards, large-scale public events, other emergencies, and public safety concerns.

### **Problem Statement:**

Effective communication during emergencies is crucial to saving lives, reducing property damage, mitigating impact, calming public tension, and minimizing misinformation. Traditional communication methods can be delayed, unreliable, or inaccessible during some crises. There is a need for a versatile, reliable, and easily deployable communication tool that can provide real-time information to the public in various emergency or critical situations, and targeted to specific affected locations.

### **Project Goals and Objectives:**

- 1. Enhance Public Safety:** Improve the ability to communicate critical information to the public during emergencies and high-profile events.
- 2. Increase Emergency Response Efficiency:** Provide emergency responders with a reliable tool to disseminate real-time updates and instructions.

**3. Improve Community Preparedness:** Educate the public on emergency procedures and safety measures through regular use and visibility of the messaging boards.

**4. Reduce Response Time:** Ensure timely dissemination of information to reduce the time taken to respond to and mitigate emergencies.

#### **Project Description:**

We propose to purchase, integrate, and deploy portable/mobile digital messaging boards to be used during emergencies. These boards will be strategically placed in high-traffic areas, evacuation routes, and at the sites of incidents to provide real-time updates and instructions to the public. These devices would be used to augment and back up current communication methods to the public regarding safe routes away from effected areas, directions to points of emergency supply distribution, or warnings of impending threats. The boards will be managed by the Walton County Emergency Management Agency and integrated into our existing communication systems and mass notification tools.

#### **Key Features:**

**Portability:** Easily transportable to different locations as needed.

**Real-Time Updates:** Capable of displaying up-to-date information instantly.

**Versatility:** Suitable for a wide range of emergencies, including natural disasters, weather related incidents, hazardous materials incidents, technical emergencies, public safety threats, and general public events directed at vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

**Durability:** Built to withstand harsh weather conditions and continuous use.

#### **Implementation Plan:**

##### **1. Phase 1 - Planning and Procurement (Month 1-2):**

- Identify the specific models and features of the messaging boards.
- Purchase the mobile messaging boards.
- Train emergency management personnel on the use and deployment of the messaging boards.

##### **2. Phase 2 - Deployment and Testing (Month 3-4):**

- Deploy the boards in key locations for testing and familiarization.
- Conduct drills and simulations to test the effectiveness of the boards in various scenarios.

### 3. Phase 3 - Full Implementation (Month 5 onward):

- Integrate the boards into the county's emergency operations plan.
- Use the boards for real-time communication during actual emergencies and for public safety messages during non-emergency times.

#### **Budget:**

**Digital Mobile Messaging Boards (6 units):** \$77,354

**Contingency/Implementation Funds:** \$2,000

**Total Budget:** \$79,354

#### **Funding Sources:**

**#1:** Apply for **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant** through GEMA/FEMA. If approved, this grant would fund 75% of main project cost and an associated sub-grant would fund 100% of the small contingency and implementation costs. This would amount to **\$60,015.50**

**#2:** Walton County would match the grant funding at 25% of the main project cost, amounting to **\$19,338.50**

#### **Evaluation Plan:**

The success of the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**Operational Readiness:** The ability to deploy the boards quickly and effectively during an emergency.

**Public Awareness:** Increased public awareness and understanding of emergency procedures.

**Feedback from Emergency Responders:** Positive feedback from emergency management personnel on the utility and effectiveness of the boards.

**Incident Reports:** Analysis of incident reports to assess the impact of the boards on response times and public safety outcomes.

#### **Sustainability:**

The Walton County Emergency Management Agency is committed to the ongoing maintenance and operation of the portable digital messaging boards. We will allocate funds from our annual budget for regular maintenance, subscription services, and updates to ensure the boards remain operational and

effective. Additionally, we will seek partnerships with local industry and organizations to support the long-term sustainability of this project.

**Conclusion:**

Investing in portable digital messaging boards will significantly enhance our community's emergency communication capabilities. By providing real-time information and instructions during crises, we can improve public safety, reduce response times, and ensure a coordinated and effective response to emergencies. We respectfully request your support in funding this critical initiative to protect and serve our community.

**Project Contact Information:**

J.B. Welchel  
Emergency Management Specialist  
Walton County Emergency Management Agency  
303 S. Hammond Drive  
Monroe, Georgia 30655  
joseph.welchel@co.walton.ga.us  
770-267-1924

# QUOTATION



AMERICAN SIGNAL COMPANY

American Signal  
 2755 Bankers Industrial Dr  
 Atlanta, GA 30360  
 Tel: 770-448-6650 Fax:  
 Email:  
<http://amsig.com>

Date : 22 Jul 2024  
 Our Reference : SO-0009826  
 PO No. : QUOTE FOR JB  
 Customer Code :

**COMPANY**  
 WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**DELIVER TO**  
 WALTON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Contact: J.B. WHELCHEL    Contact Phone: 770-267-1924    Contact Email:  
 JOSEPH.WHELCHEL@CO.WALTON.GA.US  
 Sales Rep: SJ001    Rep Phone: 404-978-5646    Payment Terms: NET30 BY INVOICE DATE  
 Rep Email: sjohnson@amsig.com    Shipping Terms: Customer Pickup

Line #	Product	Description	Quantity	UOM	Price	Value
0	AMS3006521	CMS-T331 LITE PCMS, WEBBEXPRESS	2	Each	12008.00	24016.00
	1	PRICING PER GSA CONTRACT# 47QSMA21D08R6 Warranty 1 year				0.00
0	AMS3006462	CMS-465-T, ADVANTAGE-S TRLR/SIGN	4	Each	11400.00	45600.00
	5	WX Warranty 1 year				0.00
0	OPT40102155	CELL, PHONE LTE/WIFI/GPS PHO-326	6	Each	928.00	5568.00
0	OPT30125380	SUBSCRIPTION, VZW VPN 1-YR ITS CLOUD PER YEAR PER DEVICE	6	Each	120.00	720.00

If signed, can serve as PO: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ship Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ship To: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trailer Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hitch Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Continued

# QUOTATION



AMERICAN SIGNAL COMPANY

American Signal  
 2755 Bankers Industrial Dr  
 Atlanta, GA 30360  
 Tel: 770-448-6650 Fax:  
 Email:  
<http://amsig.com>

Date	: 22 Jul 2024
Our Reference	: SO-0009826
PO No.	: QUOTE FOR JB
Customer Code	:

Line #	Product	Description	Quantity	UOM	Price	Value
0	FREIGHT OUT	FREIGHT OUT TO BE DETERMINED	1	Each	1450.00	1450.00

**Shipping Terms: FOB American Signal Company, Atlanta GA. Shipping to be paid upon delivery, unless prior arrangements have been made. Facility should have forklift or other means to unload units.**

**Buyer agrees to American Signal's terms and conditions. There are terms and conditions applicable to this transaction in addition to those specified above, which are available upon your request. Any special requirements need to be noted on purchase order**

If signed, can serve as PO: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship To: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Trailer Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Hitch Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of Goods	\$ 77,354.00
Total Discount	\$ 0.00
Quotation Total	\$ 77,354.00