



OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

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Report of State and Local Costs for the Statewide Wireless Network

March 2010

Introduction

A Statewide Wireless Network (SWN) was intended to replace outdated emergency communications infrastructures with a statewide radio network for State public safety and public service agencies. The purpose of the SWN was to enable local and State interagency and intergovernmental communications—or interoperability—to allow emergency personnel to communicate with one another more effectively. The Office for Technology (OFT) awarded a contract approved by the Office of the State Comptroller in September 2005 to M/A-COM, Inc. to design and build a SWN infrastructure, with a not to exceed price of \$2.0 billion.

In response to cost concerns, part G of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2007 was enacted in 2007 to require State agencies and municipalities to report expenditures related to SWN on an annual basis to the Office of the State Comptroller. This report is issued to comply with the statutory reporting requirements.

On January 15, 2009, the New York State Chief Information Officer and Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) announced that M/A-COM had “failed to deliver a satisfactory and acceptable public safety communications network and is in default of the contract. As a result, the State has exercised its right to terminate the contract for cause and presented a demand notice for the payment of a \$50 Million Standby Letter of Credit to the State (SLOC) without delay.”¹

Summary of Reports Filed

Reports submitted by counties for local governments include expenses for counties, cities, towns, villages and fire districts. No counties filed reports for the current period.

No State agencies or public benefit corporations filed reports for the current period.

¹ New York State. Office for Technology. Press Release. Jan 15, 2009.

As a result, no State or local expenditures were reported to the Office of the State Comptroller for calendar year 2009. No estimated expenditures for SFY 2010-11 were reported to the Office of the State Comptroller.

Reporting Requirements

This report is issued to comply with the statutory reporting requirements, which mandate that the chief executive officer of any city, town, village or fire district with SWN-related expenditures during the previous calendar year, or anticipating such expenditures in the entity's next fiscal year, submit an itemized list of those expenditures to their respective county government by January 15 each year. The county must then compile all data from the local entities, and include its own county expenditures, in a report submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller by January 30.

Additionally, State agencies and public benefit corporations are also required to report all SWN-related expenditures during the previous calendar year to the Office of the State Comptroller by January 30. To assure complete transparency regarding all SWN costs sought by legislators and to provide data that may assist State officials as they make difficult budgetary decisions going forward, the Office of the State Comptroller requested that State agencies and public benefit corporations, though not required by the statute, also report their anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year.

The Office of the State Comptroller then compiles all expenditures and anticipated expenditures submitted under the SWN reporting requirements in an annual report to be transmitted by March 15 to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the minority leaders of the Senate and the Assembly, the Director of the Division of the Budget, and the Statewide Wireless Network Advisory Council.