

To all Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments,

The State of Nebraska Office of the CIO is writing to provide you with an update regarding the ongoing Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Radio Grant.

New Equipment Available!

Thanks to the efforts of the Nebraska State Legislature, the State Radio System has secured \$2 million in funding for another round of VFD radio equipment delivery. Because of this, state-recognized volunteer fire departments can once again apply to receive SRS-capable radio equipment.

The same selection process used in the prior grant cycle will be used for this one. All VFDs are eligible to apply, including those that have already received equipment. Priority selection will be given to VFDs who were not previously awarded equipment in 2024.

To apply, please visit <https://vfdradiogrant.nebraska.gov/> and fill out the application. Applications are due by August 16th. Applications received after the 16th will not be accepted. Awardees will be notified by September 2nd, 2024.

Motorola Microphone Technical Issues

Motorola has issued a recall involving the Motorola XVE500 Remote Speaker Microphones that were provided with portable radios as part of the grant. These microphones may exhibit intermittent audio disconnection during transmissions, and the affected device may transmit incomplete audio.



The notification about this recall was provided in Motorola Technical Notification MTN-0098-24, and affects the following model numbers:

- PMMN4132A
- PMMN4132ABLK
- PMMN4137A
- PMMN4137ABLK

The State Radio System is currently working with Motorola to develop a timeline to replace the affected equipment. We appreciate your patience as we work to resolve this issue.

Training Sessions Available!

Below are the final scheduled training sessions, which are available across the State of Nebraska. **VFDs are required to attend at least one training session.** If you do not attend a session, your equipment may be distributed to a different VFD.

Date	Time	Location	Status	Equipment Type
9/5/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	353 Commercial St. Primrose, NE 68655	Open	Motorola and Kenwood
9/10/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	201 S Webster Kimball, NE 69145	Open	Motorola and Kenwood
9/18/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	304 S 4th St. O'Neill, NE 68763	Open	Motorola and Kenwood
9/24/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	122 Main St. Louisville, NE 68037	Open	Motorola and Kenwood
9/26/24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT	612 1 st St. Milford, NE 68405	Open	Motorola and Kenwood

**Equipment will be provided to invited VFDs only. Other VFDs may attend the training session, but equipment will not be provided at this session.*

VFDs that requested equipment installations must contact their assigned vendor after receiving the equipment to schedule an installation time. You do not need to bring your VFD's vehicle for training but will need to take it to the vendor for installation.

Further training sessions to be announced.

Additional dates and locations, including August and September training sessions, will be posted in future updates.

New Website Content Available!

Stay up to date with the latest developments by regularly checking the SRS [website](#) for any changes ([link](#); QR code available below).



New videos on the kit setup and teardown procedures are now available.

Videos, instructions, and other information for utilizing your equipment are also featured on the website.

Obtaining a Desk Charger

VFDs that wish to purchase a different desk charger should speak with their radio vendor contacts. Additional charger purchases are not covered by the grant. Desk chargers cost approximately \$150 each.

Below are the part numbers for the desk chargers:

- **Motorola:** NNTN8860B
- **Kenwood:** KSC-52BK

Vehicle Charger Installation

94 departments have requested vehicle chargers and should only be working with their listed vendor to have the charger installed.

Purchase orders have been sent to the assigned vendors. Covered costs, minus any travel expenses, will be reimbursed at vendors with purchase orders.

Immediately after receiving the radio equipment, please work with the listed vendor to schedule the vehicle charger installation in the designated vehicle.

System Users Group (SUG) Meetings

The Systems Users Group meets bi-monthly at the NPPD facility in York, Nebraska, and is streamed online using Microsoft Teams. The meetings are open to all users of the Statewide Radio System and anyone else with interest in the operations of the system.

These meetings provide an opportunity for users to discuss system operations, maintenance, and other pertinent topics. It is recommended that users of the SRS attend the meetings to network and address questions and concerns. In addition, vendors may be present to talk and perform presentations on their equipment.

The SUG Users List is where all communications are disseminated for system operation. Contact Kelsey Hetrick to be added to the list and receive information about dates and times.

Thank You!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to receive, prepare, and distribute equipment. We look forward to providing your requested SRS-capable radios.

Regards,

Kelsey C. Hetrick - Systems Coordinator

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For additional details and updates please visit <https://cio.nebraska.gov/network-serv/publicsafety/index.html> and locate the “State of Nebraska Volunteer Fire Departments – Radio Grant Information” button on the page.