

FirstNet OKs \$82.6M for continued development of nationwide, public safety wireless network

Fierce Mobile Government By Dibya Sarkar

November 18, 2014

Up to \$86.2 million can be spent in fiscal 2015 to help support development of a high-speed, nationwide public safety wireless communications network, following the recent passage of a resolution.

The finance committee of the congressionally mandated and independent First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, unanimously approved the resolution ([pdf](#)) after a special meeting Nov. 17

As a result, FirstNet management can spend up to \$42.5 million on activities such as hiring management and technical experts to help develop a comprehensive request for proposals, continuing research on public safety communications and reviewing applicable state and territory laws and regulations.

About \$22.3 million has been earmarked for consulting, planning and outreach activities, while up to \$21.4 million can be spent on FirstNet's organizational structure, project support and administrative functions, including IT infrastructure.

In a statement, FirstNet Acting General Manager TJ Kennedy said the consultation and RFP components are "key elements" in advancing development of the network.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department inspector general is auditing FirstNet's efforts and progress regarding the network's technical design, among other issues, according to a Nov. 10 memo ([pdf](#)).

The broadband network would address a long-standing problem among first responders, who are typically unable to communicate with one another because their stand-alone systems and

communications devices are incompatible across many municipalities.

For more:

- [read](#) the FirstNet press release on the funding (includes link to agenda, presentation and resolution)

[Link to Article](#)

[Link to Fierce News Articles](#)