



Ohio Sunset Review Committee

Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Department of Administrative Services (DAS) – MARCS Steering Committee

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Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

The Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee helps the DAS Director effectively and efficiently implement MARCS, as well develop policies for the ongoing governance and management of the system related to statewide interoperability for first responder communications.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:

Historically, the MARCS Steering Committee has met on a quarterly basis or as needed. The DAS MARCS program office provides administrative support for the Committee as part of their normal job duties. Support amounts to less than 8 hours per meeting for two staff members. No additional staff or budget is required for this purpose.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

The MARCS Steering Committee does not have a budget.

However, the recently adopted state operating budget (HB 166) included appropriation of approximately \$27 million each fiscal year for the MARCS program administration. Additionally, section 207.10 of HB 166 provided \$2M in cash in each fiscal year to reduce or eliminate MARCS subscriber fees paid by villages, townships, municipal corporations, counties, and regional public safety and first response agencies classified as Tier 1 subscribers by the MARCS Steering Committee. Regional coverage funding is applicable to Ohio governmental agencies, excluding State agencies, Boards, Commissions and Federal governmental agencies.

Currently, there are over 128,000 radios and more than 1,800 mobile data units on the MARCS system, serving more than 2,800 public safety/ public service agencies throughout Ohio. These include state, local, county, and township police, fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Emergency Management Agencies (EMA), corrections officers from both adult and juvenile state systems, and other first responders.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:

The MARCS Steering Committee currently has 8 members consisting of designees from Administrative Services, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, Rehabilitation and Correction, Budget and Management, and the State Fire Marshal, as well as the chair of the local government subcommittee. This membership provides an effective governance model and solid representation of the first responder and public safety community. Members serve without compensation.

Agency-recommended legislative changes to improve organizational efficiency:

DAS recommends that the Local Government Subcommittee be required by law.

Currently, the Local Government Subcommittee is not a requirement. Rather, the MARCS Steering Committee may establish the subcommittee. This change would ensure that local governments have a voice as it pertains to the MARCS program.

DAS also recommends the Chair of the Local Government Subcommittee be a permanent member of the MARCS Steering Committee.

Currently, the Chair of the Subcommittee may serve as a member of the MARCS Steering Committee, but it is not a requirement. This change would allow for local governments to have a permanent voice on the larger MARCS Steering Committee.

Additional notes:

The Steering Committee provides valuable advice and recommendations on policies and issues. The Steering Committee also provides MARCS customers with direct influence in a service that is critical to their mission and operations. This Committee continues to provide value and benefit to the public safety and first responder community, and for this reason we recommend its continuation.