

Ohio Department of Administrative Services
MARCS Steering Committee
Sunset Review Committee
November 16, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Stu Davis, and I am the Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the State Chief Information Officer.

I am pleased to appear before you today to testify in support of the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee. MARCS is a 700/800MHz radio and data network that provides a statewide, secure, and reliable communication system for public safety and first responders in Ohio.

The MARCS Steering Committee is an advisory body charged with providing assistance to the Director of Administrative Services for the effective and efficient implementation of MARCS as well as development of policies for the ongoing management of the system related to statewide interoperability for first responder communications. HB64 recently renewed the MARCS Steering Committee and expanded its membership to include local government representation. Local Government has become a significant partner in the MARCS system and formal representation on the Steering Committee was welcome.

The Steering Committee is comprised of representation from our State agency customer partners which includes the Directors or their designees of the departments of Administrative Services, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, Rehabilitation and Correction, Office of 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. The committee has no associated budget and members serve without compensation. Committee support amounts to less than 8 hours per meeting for two MARCS staff members.

Historically, the Steering Committee has met at least quarterly and on an as needed basis. The Steering Committee provides valuable advice and recommendations on policies and issues such as the recently completed system upgrade, local government adoption and rate development. The Steering Committee provides MARCS customers with direct influence in a service that is critical to their mission and operations. The meetings are open to the public and are well attended by state and local government first responders.

Chairman Brown and members of the Committee, the MARCS Steering Committee continues to provide value and benefit to the public safety and first responder community and for this reason we recommend its reauthorization. It has been my pleasure to testify before you today in support of the MARCS Steering Committee. I thank you for your time this afternoon and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.