



Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Department of Administrative Services

Point of Contact _Angie Canepa

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee provides assistance to the Director of Administrative Services for the effective and efficient implementation of MARCS as well as development of policies for the ongoing governance and management of the system related to statewide interoperability for first responder communications. HB33 expanded the Steering Committee's membership to include more local government representation, along with legislative representation as well by adding two members from the House and two members from the Senate. Local Government continues to increase as a significant partner in the MARCS system, so additional representation on the Steering Committee was welcome. The MARCS Steering Committee now has a total of sixteen (16) members comprised of 8 original and 8 newly created members. HB 2 recently renewed the committee.

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.

The recently adopted state FY2024-25 operating budget, (135th General Assembly Amended Substitute House Bill Number 33) included appropriation of \$31.5M in each fiscal year (FY24, FY25) for the MARCS program from fund 5C20. Additionally, section 207.180 of HB 33 provided up to \$10.5M in cash in each fiscal year (FY 24, FY25) of General Revenue Funds to further reduce MARCS subscriber fees paid by local first responder agencies. As a result of the this funding, the local government user fee was reduced by an additional 50% effective October 3rd of FY24 to only \$5.00 per radio per month. Local coverage funding is applicable to Ohio governmental agencies, excluding State agencies, Boards, Commissions and Federal governmental agencies.

Currently, there are more than 155,000 radios and more than 1,800 mobile data units on the MARCS system, serving more than 3,300 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. Some schools and hospitals are on the MARCS system as well.

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

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. The recently added members include a representative from the following: the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, two members from the House of Representatives, and two members from the Senate.

Additional notes

The Steering Committee provides valuable advice and recommendations on policies and issues such as 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 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.