

## **NORTHWEST CENTRAL DISPATCHING PROJECT**

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tee, which is reviewing our project, is most helpful.

### **Jurisdictional Problems— Lines of Responsibility**

Jurisdictional problems, in my experience, have never been a serious hangup with progressive police departments.

Chapter 24 of the Illinois Revised Statutes, since 1965, have given Cities and Villages in Illinois the authority to "... exercise jointly, with one or more other municipal corporations or governmental subdivisions or districts, all of the powers set forth in this Code unless expressly provided otherwise." (Illinois Revised Statutes, 1969, p. 2854).

Where, as in this project, each municipality will be sending its own people to man the central dispatch center, lines of responsibility must be jointly agreed upon in the areas of shift assignment and rotation, relief, days off, and supervision.

In this project, the police chiefs of the participating departments act as an executive board to determine lines of responsibility. The other police chiefs, members of the Northwest Police Academy, act as a steering committee for the duration of the project.

### **Economics**

Although all municipal officials must be budget-minded, the economics of this project must be subordinate to the improved service which will accrue to the citizens.

The strain on the local economy is lessened, of course, because of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission's allocation of LEAA funds for the equipment and consultant costs.

### **Expected Economies**

Economies which may be anticipated are categorized as immediate and long range.

Immediate economies are the initial cost of the equipment and consultant services provided in the grant by ILEC.

Long range economies are expected as the project is expanded to encompass other areas of communications—primarily the fire service, which duplicates the manpower and equipment requirements in each community.

Another long range economy is the expected feasibility of non-police and non-fire personnel assigned to central dispatch. Highly trained communications people will free patrolmen and fire fighters to perform the tasks for which they were initially hired and trained.

### **Major Concerns of Village Officials**

#### **Improved Service**

There can be no justification for a change in the "status quo" unless it can be demonstrated that the citizens will enjoy improved service—a shorter response time by having a police officer at the scene, whether their emergency is imagined or real.

#### **Economics**

Elected officials, justifiably, demand the highest level of service at the lowest cost. The long range plan for this project, as previously explained, should help them realize that goal in the area of total, emergency communications.

#### **Community Identity**

We all seek identity and Village Officials are dedicated to have their respective municipalities identified in the best possible light.

The public safety services are the means by which municipalities, their citizens and elected officials are identified—either in a positive or negative way.

In the mechanics of the operation of the central dispatch center, phone lines will be identified with the communities they serve. For example: An Elk Grove citizen calls for police service. He dials the same emergency number as he has always used. The only difference is that the call is answered in Arlington Heights, possibly by an operator who happens to be on the payroll of the Mount Prospect Police Department.

The operator, seeing that the

call is on an Elk Grove line will answer "Elk Grove Police Department, may I help you?" The Officer responding to the call for service in Elk Grove will be an Elk Grove Police Officer. No identity problem.

### **OBTAINING FUNDING— GRANTSMANSHIP**

The first step in obtaining funding from a State planning agency such as ILEC is to submit a request to the regional planning agency. The grant request is a proposal that defines the objectives of the project, the means by which the objects are to be reached and an itemized budget.

The project narrative must describe the proposed program in detail. If a consultant is to be used his proposals can usually serve as this project narrative. If several consultants submit proposals the applicant may also have to evaluate the various bids and choose one to include with his grant request. In some cases the planning agency may assist in this task. In the case of the Northwest Central Dispatch Project, the prior work and experience of IITRI in performing the APCO Project III study narrowed the choice of consultants.

Before submitting a final grant request it is important to explore the proposed program with the staff of both the regional and the State planning agency. In the case of this project David Goldberg, of the ILEC Staff, provided such consultation and proved very helpful in obtaining the final grant.

### **THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY**

The Cook County Committee on Criminal Justice (now merged with the Chicago Committee on Criminal Justice under the new title Chicago/Cook County Criminal Justice Commission) reviewed the grant application in depth between November, 1970, and March 1971, when it was finally approved and passed on to the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission.

In its review and recommendation, the Cook County Committee

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