

## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | DECEMBER 14, 2020



[Featured Activities](#) | [FirstNet in Action](#) | [FirstNet in the News](#) | [Social](#)

## FEATURED ENGAGEMENT



### FirstNet Authority Board of Directors holds final quarterly board meeting of 2020

Last week, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Board held an open public meeting, noting the year's accomplishments and progress, and looking ahead to the priorities of 2021.

FirstNet Authority Board Chair **Tip Osterthaler** acknowledged the strain placed on our nation's first responders and public health officials in a year battling a global pandemic, wildfires, and other incidents and events in their communities. FirstNet Authority CEO **Ed Parkinson** expressed the agency's appreciation for the nation's first responders during this challenging year. He emphasized the FirstNet Authority's commitment to building a secure mobile broadband network, saying, "We are proud and honored to support public safety's incredible and important mission by delivering an interoperable broadband network dedicated to emergency communication."

The FirstNet Authority awarded the 2020 **Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award** to **Chief Jeffrey Lane** of Gainesville Fire Rescue in Florida for demonstrating extraordinary **leadership and contributions** to advancing broadband communications for public safety personnel across the nation.

The Board also reviewed several important updates and actions.

- Board Member **Darrin Jones** shared an update on the FBI's adoption of FirstNet mobility services to support its day-to-day and emergency operations.

- Board Member **Brian Crawford** reported that the FirstNet Authority remains financially sound and on schedule.
- The Board passed a resolution for further **investment in the FirstNet Core**, which gives FirstNet Authority management the authority to devote additional funding to the Core's operations and maintenance and advances our efforts to equip FirstNet with initial 5G capabilities.

The Board highlighted key milestones and accomplishments for 2020, including:

- **Increased adoption by public safety:** More than 14,000 agencies have signed up for FirstNet with 1.7 million devices connected to the network, according to AT&T.
- **Investments to advance the network:** In response to first responders' evolving needs, the FirstNet Authority made its first strategic investments to set FirstNet on the path to 5G and expand the deployables program. The FirstNet **deployables program** supported public safety in over 600 events last year.
- **Apps and Devices:** There has been steady growth in the FirstNet ecosystem, with 250 **certified devices**, more than 180 of which support Band 14, and over 150 **public-safety applications**.
- **Public safety engagement:** The FirstNet Authority **continued its robust engagement** with public safety – more than 1,000 engagements in 2020 – and conducted industry research to update the Roadmap with new data and priorities.

As 2020 comes to an end, the FirstNet Authority team wishes you and your families a very happy and healthy new year. Thanks for reading the FirstNet Update's final issue of 2020. Look out for our first issue of 2021 on January 11th.



## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



### Florida fire chief honored for public safety leadership

Gainesville Fire Rescue's **Chief Jeffrey Lane** has been awarded the prestigious Chief Harlin R. McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award for his outstanding leadership and contributions to advancing broadband communications for public safety personnel across the nation.



## **FirstNet Network expands advances public safety communications**

First Responders in **Indiana**, **West Virginia**, **Ohio**, **Virginia**, and **Pennsylvania** are getting a major boost in their wireless communications with the addition of new, purpose-built FirstNet cell sites. This new infrastructure is a part of the FirstNet network expansion that is bringing increased coverage, capacity, and capabilities for public safety.



## **FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS**

### *Regional Coverage*

#### **Former Gainesville Fire Rescue Chief is being honored nationally**

WCBJ, December 9

#### **AT&T expands Mobile Broadband Network to City of Chesapeake**

WAVY-TV, December 2

#### **Patrick County gets two new emergency communication cell towers**

Martinsville Bulletin, December 1

### *National Coverage*

#### **Retired fire chief highlights Florida city's current use of FirstNet, future possibilities**

Urgent Communications, December 10

#### **2020 has been 'an exceptional test year' for FirstNet**

RCR Wireless News, December 2

#### **AT&T snags FBI business from Verizon with \$92M FirstNet contract**

Fierce Wireless, December 8



## **BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET**



**FirstNet Authority**  
@FirstNetGov

Replying to @FirstNetGov

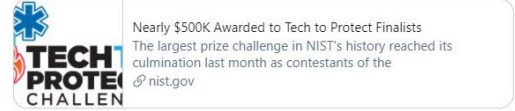
In FY 2020, the FirstNet Authority's Public Safety Engagement team conducted more than 1,250 #publicsafety engagements, reaching over 30,000 stakeholders. Learn more about our work with public safety: [firstnet.gov/public-safety/...](https://firstnet.gov/public-safety/)



FirstNet Authority Retweeted



The National Institute of Standards and Technology @NIST #PSCR awards \$500k to nine finalists who have commercialized software solutions for #FirstResponders for use on @FirstNet and mobile networks. @FirstNetGov @RayLehr



**Integrated Public Safety Commission**  
@IPSC\_Indiana

Thank you @FirstNetGov ! We are very excited that our Indiana #FirstResponders can benefit from these new cell sites.

**FirstNet Authority** @FirstNetGov · Nov 30  
New @FirstNet cell sites have launched in 12 counties across #Indiana! Learn why @IPSC\_Indiana Executive Director Kelly Dignin says this new #infrastructure is helping better position public safety to respond to emergencies and disasters --> [firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...](https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...)



At today's #FirstNetAuthority Board meeting, we announced this year's winner of the Chief Harlin R. McEwen Award – @GFR1882 Chief Jeff Lane. Watch to hear why Chief Lane has confidence in @FirstNet for #firstresponders. [firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...](https://firstnet.gov/newsroom/press...)



**Accountability for Your FirstNet**  
Chief Jeffrey Lane of Gainesville Fire Rescue shares his perspective on the important role of the FirstNet Authority.

The FirstNet Authority Update comes to your inbox with a quick look at events and information you need to stay up to date with the First Responder Network Authority.

