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## THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | DECEMBER 13, 2021



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## FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

### FirstNet Authority examines body-worn camera as viable resource for law enforcement

Law enforcement agencies nationwide are implementing body-worn camera programs to enhance situational awareness, increase transparency, and capture data for review. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held the first session in a series of body-worn camera (BWC)-related webinars to highlight how law enforcement agencies are planning, implementing, and expanding BWC programs.

FirstNet Authority Board Member **Brian Crawford** reiterated the Board's commitment to learning more about how public safety agencies use FirstNet and in which ways the network is helping to meet their operational needs and keep communities and first responders safe. "As FirstNet is nearing completion with Band 14 build out and approaching three million connections, our focus is on the user of the FirstNet service and continuing to evolve the network to meet your needs. The FirstNet Authority team relies on public safety's feedback to make FirstNet even better," said Crawford.

FirstNet Authority Senior Public Safety Advisor **Jonathon Lewin** sees firsthand that **law enforcement** and public safety agencies nationwide are not only increasingly implementing BWC programs, but they are also leveraging FirstNet's extended coverage and capacity to power their BWC equipment. "The FirstNet network is geared toward connecting first responders to meaningful new solutions relevant to their public safety mission," says Lewin. "Body worn cameras is one area we are interested in learning about from users."

#### St. Cloud Police Department equipped with BWCs

When law enforcement agencies implement BWC programs, they must make highly

technical decisions about policy issues related to funding, technology adoption, training, and use. Once implemented, officers with BWCs use the technology to document evidence, record witness statements, promote accountability, and enhance situational awareness to keep communities and officers safe.

FirstNet users **Commander Adam Meierding** and **Jason Burke** from the St. Cloud Police Department (SCPD) became familiar with the benefits of officers wearing BWCs after working closely with a neighboring jurisdiction during a critical incident involving a shooting.

“Body-worn cameras are a big deal for us,” recalled Commander Meierding. “In the last year, another agency was involved in a critical incident with us – luckily they were wearing body cams which were very beneficial to an officer shooting. We realized it was time for us to start moving forward with body cams.”

The first step in developing a successful BWC program begins with agencies familiarizing themselves with state laws that govern portable recording systems. The SCPD relied on a Minnesota state statute to help guide their BWC use policies related to data privacy, digital evidence storage, budgetary monies, and adding departmental staff to administer these programs. The SCPD also found it beneficial to proactively head off potential issues by developing protocols about end-user training programs, public data request procedures, and auditing standards.

The SCPD discovered the need for adequate bandwidth from their internet service provider to effectively off-load the body camera’s data. In the future, the SCPD plans to use air cards powered by FirstNet’s Band 14 service to perform this step.

#### **Funding available to purchase BWCs**

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the **Body Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCPPI)**. The program operates as a competitive matching grant opportunity to fund law enforcement agencies seeking to purchase or lease BWCs in order to establish or expand comprehensive BWC initiatives. Award funding can be used to purchase devices, licensing, and training, and to fund personnel that manage programs.

During his presentation on the BWCPPI, BJA’s Senior Policy Advisor **John Markovic** explained that BWCs are seen as a way to promote accountability, transparency, and procedural justice – and also as a tool for reform and reconciliation.

BWCPPI has funded municipal police departments, county sheriff’s offices, tribal police agencies, public universities and colleges, and enforcement consortia, such as large agencies that can apply for themselves and smaller partner agencies, correctional agencies, state police, and transportation police.

A micro-grant program is also available to accommodate small, rural, and tribal agencies not equipped to apply for grants. BJA is working with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Police Force, and the FirstNet Authority to educate the community about this opportunity.

BJA anticipates the next round of funding opportunities to become available in the coming weeks. For more information about BWCPPI’s open funding solicitations and award announcements, please visit BJA’s **funding page** or subscribe to **News From BJA** to receive the most up-to-date information.

The FirstNet Authority thanks the St. Cloud Police Department for sharing their experience with BWCs. We look forward to our continued dialogue as FirstNet develops and evolves based on input from public safety.



## SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

### *In-Person Events*

California State Fire Wildland Command Operations Training and Exercises, Dec. 13

BayRICS Public Safety Broadband Working Group, Dec. 23

### *Webinars and Teleconferences*

**FirstNet Subscriber-Paid Webinar**, Dec. 14

FEMA Region 9 OCONUS-Focused RECCWG Teleconference, Dec. 21

For interest in attendance for any of our events or webinars, please email [Outreach@firstnet.gov](mailto:Outreach@firstnet.gov).



## FIRSTNET IN ACTION



### **Demonstrating Priority and Preemption in the Boulder FirstNet Lab**

Experts at the Boulder FirstNet Lab in Colorado test functions and features of FirstNet to ensure first responders experience the network as designed and expected. For example, using load test tools, researchers can emulate 6,000 devices and demonstrate how priority and preemption work for first responders.

Learn more about the Boulder FirstNet Lab and see a [demonstration of priority and preemption](#) in action.



## New FirstNet Build at Redstone Arsenal to Support Public Safety

First responders and security personnel at Redstone Arsenal got another major boost in their wireless communications thanks to new, purpose-built cell sites on the Army Base.

Read more about the [ribbon-cutting event](#) held at Redstone Arsenal.



## Standing in Support of New Mexico's Hometown Heroes

FirstNet has supported New Mexico first responders through many events. From connecting public safety at the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival to covering tribal nations during the pandemic, agencies are experiencing the benefits of their network.

Discover how public safety in New Mexico is using FirstNet to support every day and emergency operations in [this blog from the FirstNet Authority's Thomas Randall](#).



## FirstNet Authority Announces Jeremy Zollo as Chief

## Market Engagement Officer

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) announced that **Jeremy Zollo** has been named **Chief Market Engagement Officer**, a new position created to oversee the organization's collaboration with stakeholders across market segments, including public safety, industry, academia, and government partners.

Read more about **Jerney Zollo and his new position as Chief Market Engagement Officer** at the FirstNet Authority.

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## The FirstNet Network Advances Public Safety Communication Capabilities

First responders across the country 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.

Read more about the benefits for first responders in **Northern Minnesota**.

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## FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

### *Regional Coverage*

**FirstNet Authority and law enforcement are working together to keep Texas safe**  
KAGS-TV, November 30

**Gov. Ivey introduces new technology upgrade to support public safety at Redstone Arsenal**

WIAT-TV, December 2

### *National Coverage*

**FirstNet Revisits Telehealth**

Federal Telemedicine News, November 29

**FirstNet to give Army first responders a boost in wireless communications**

The Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS), December 12

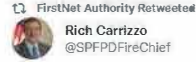
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# BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov  
. @FirstNet is supporting public safety during large planned events, natural disasters, everyday incidents, and the pandemic. Hear from first responders across the country as they explain how public safety's network is making a difference: [youtube.com/playlist?list=...](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=...)



FirstNet Authority Retweeted  
Rich Carrizzo @SPFPDFireChief  
Such an honor to be with incredible leaders and visionaries that have a passion for the #FirstResponder community. Such a collaboration that will help public safety stay connected and protected.



FirstNet Authority Retweeted  
AT&T Business @ATTBusiness  
How is #5G improving the efforts of first responders?  
Edward Parkinson, CEO of @FirstNetGov, shared some impactful innovations at the #ATTBizSummit.  
Watch "The Power of Connections: Essential 5G"  
Now available on demand: [go.att.com/BizSummit](https://go.att.com/BizSummit)



FirstNet Authority @FirstNetGov  
The FirstNet Authority works with public safety across the country to ensure #FirstNet meets their needs. Check out this story from @Jordan\_Adams4 of @KAGSNews to see how we're partnering with Texas public safety to advance drone tech: [kagstv.com/article/news/1...](https://kagstv.com/article/news/1...)



The Public Safety Advocacy 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.

