



FY12

PSAP GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION



VIRGINIA INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES AGENCY
Integrated Services Division
FY12



FY12 PSAP GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY/DEADLINE

The grant application will be available and accessible from VITA's Integrated Services Program's website (<http://www.vita.virginia.gov/isp/>). Upon completion of the application, it is to be submitted to the PSAP Grant Manager, Lisa Nicholson, at lisa.nicholson@vita.virginia.gov. Any supporting documentation must also be submitted along with the application.

After submission, the PSAP Grant Manager will assign a Grant ID and send an e-mail notification to the project contact e-mail address listed on the application received.

All funding requests must be submitted using the grant application. In addition to the grant application reference manual, technical assistance is available from VITA's Public Safety Communications (PSC) staff throughout the grant process. The FY12 PSAP Grant Application Cycle deadline is December 22, 2010 at 11:59 pm.



FY12 PSAP GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT TITLE

Regional MERG II

GRANT APPLICANT PROFILE/PROJECT CONTACT

PSAP/HOST PSAP NAME: Wise County
 CONTACT TITLE: Geographic Information Officer
 CONTACT FIRST NAME: Jessica
 CONTACT LAST NAME: Swinney
 ADDRESS 1: Po Box 570
 ADDRESS 2: 206 E Main St
 CITY: Wise
 ZIP CODE: 24293
 CONTACT EMAIL: gio@wisecounty.org
 CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: 276-328-7110
 CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER: 276-393-2513
 CONTACT FAX NUMBER: 276-328-9780
 REGIONAL COORDINATOR: Donna Brown

HOST PSAP AND PARTICIPATING PSAPS/LOCALITIES

Wise County PSAP	
See Attachment A for participating PSAPs and localities	

GRANT TYPE

- Individual PSAP
- Regional Initiative
- Consolidation
- Secondary Consolidation



- Wireless E-911 PSAP Education Program
- Continuity and Consolidation
- Enhancement

TIER

- Out of Service
- Non-Vendor Supported
- Technically Outdated
- Strengthen
- Not Applicable

PROJECT FOCUS GIS HIGH SUPPORT

If "Other" selected, please specify: [Click here to enter text](#)

FINANCIAL DATA

Amount Requested: \$ 322,200.00
 Total Project Cost: \$ 322,200.00

STATEMENT OF NEED

This statement should reference the relationship to the current funding priorities established by the Grant Committee and include evidence of any financial need. Additional items to discuss that referenced need should include: impact on operational services; consequences of not receiving funding; inclusion of project in a long-term or a strategic plan; and local sustainability:

With the processes and utilization of technology our goal is to maintain our current level of local funding required for our maintenance contracts while increasing services to our constituents. This project will be able to benefit from the initial regional planning, designing, and implementation of the original six (6) counties that were able to utilize the Wireless Board funding in FY10. Funding requested in FY12 is a significantly lower amount due to the regional collaboration of the original MERG project. This project also supports the addition of nine (9) more PSAPs in the MERG II project. The geographic region encompasses 91% of region IV of the Commonwealth. (See Attachment B MERGII_Map.PDF)



Describe how the grant will be maintained and supported in the future, if applicable.

In the future the monies for the yearly maintenance will need to come from the localities budget line items. The monies will be requested from the local Board of Supervisors or budgeting agents to maintain the MERG system. The grant funding will offset those costs by allowing the localities to only provide maintenance costs and not the burden of the initial hardware and configuration costs.

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FOR WIRELESS E-911 PSAP EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT REQUESTS:

Describe how the education/training is 9-1-1/public safety communications specific and how this will benefit E-911 and the employee(s) and/or PSAP.

[Click here to enter text](#)

FOR CONTINUITY AND CONSOLIDATION OR ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS:

Provide a thorough, concise, and complete description of the project, including an outline of the goals and objectives, implementation strategy, and a work plan.

The development and implementation of The Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) was completed and rolled-out in December of 2010. MERG was developed from funding provided by the E911 Wireless Board in FY10 to Six (6) jurisdictions, the City of Bristol, Lee Co, Russell Co, Scott Co, Smyth Co, and Washington Co

The funding in FY12 would allow an additional Nine (9) PSAPs to join the MERG project and would include ninety-one (91) percent of Region 4 PSAPs map data connected together using VPN and ArcGIS Server Replication.

It is the intent of Wise County to act as the "host applicant" for the regional grant submission with 9 PSAPs which include eight (8) Counties, two (2) cities, and one (1) town: Bland County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Twin County E911 (including Grayson County, Carroll County, and the City of Galax), Wise County, Wythe County, Dickenson County, City of Norton, and Town of Wytheville for the purpose of joining the MERG project by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders.

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add the mapping data to the data model and the updating process of maps in dispatch. This will provide the scheduled on demand updates for the dispatch mapping software.


FOR CONTINUITY AND CONSOLIDATION OR ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS:

PROJECT TIMELINE – Select each applicable phase of the project and indicate the estimated completion date. Sample activities for each phase can be found in the PSAP Grant Program Guidelines as well as on the addendum to this form.

Implementation plan

The following tasks have been completed or are currently in the process:

MERG officially rolled out – December 2010

MOU between localities to approve joining of MERG – March 2011

Equipment Ordered – July 2011

Implementation September/October 2011

Testing Completion November 2011

PROJECT PHASE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INITIATION (Project approved by appropriate stakeholders)	03 / 10 / 11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DESIGN/PLANNING (Project, system, or solution requirements are developed)	12/ 01 / 10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION (Selected system or solution is procured)	07 / 31 / 11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPLEMENTATION (Selected system or solution is configured and installed)	09/ 15 / 11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TESTING/COMPLETION (Selected system or solution is tested and put in production)	11/ 01 / 11



Identify the longevity or sustainability of the project.

The MERG system sets up a regional data model and web site which can be used by the entire region to coordinate emergency response for large and small disasters or potential disasters. The system is being set up to bring each PSAP's active calls into the MERG map so that coordination of resources can be planned. MERG is also a foundation for such potential future uses such as IP radio and pre-plan documentation for locations.

Describe how this project supports the Virginia Statewide E-911 Strategic Comprehensive Plan.

A crucial element of 911 PSAP operations is to ensure the GIS map data, ALI database, and MSAG are maintained properly for accurate 9-1-1 call plotting. This project will provide the nine (9) PSAPs with industry standard hardware and software necessary to keep the GIS data in the dispatch center up-to-date. This project will be used to provide continuity of operations in the MERG PSAPs by providing a standard level of emergency response service to the public by providing dispatch with the surrounding jurisdictions mapping data.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE (if applicable)

The relationship of the initiative to the participating PSAPs:

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdictions emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. .



Intended collaborative efforts:

VGIN is a strong supporter of MERG and uses the MERG FTP to download the RCL and other data layers needed. This allows VGIN to download the data from one location rather than contacting all fifteen (15) localities individually.

MERG has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning. There are also plans to add the VDEM Viper application to the regional website allowing current up to date map data for eighty-five (85) percent of Region IV to be viewed as a layer on the VIPER.

With the MERG Virtual Private Network (VPN), the foundation has been and will be set for future applications such as radio over IP and the ability to view all the active 911 calls, CAD incidents, and AVL in one web application.

Resource sharing:

This regional project will be able to benefit from the initial regional planning, designing, and implementation of the original six (6) counties that were able to utilize the Wireless Board funding in FY10. Funding requested in FY12 is a significantly lower amount due to the regional collaboration of the original MERG project.

This project will allow each PSAP to have most and in some cases all of the surrounding localities map data in their dispatch mapping system. There are numerous data layers that will be shared between the localities and each locality will have these layers in an up to date usable format.

How does the initiative impacts the operational or strategic plans of the participating agencies:

The initiatives correlate with strategic plans of localities and the Commonwealth in the efficient and effective sharing of data between neighboring jurisdictions for use in dispatch mapping applications.

In many of the PSAP's, the successful implementation of this grant will add for the first time the surrounding jurisdiction's map data into their dispatch mapping system. For others it will update and enhance their process of obtaining surrounding data. Currently it is such a time consuming process to contact all the adjacent jurisdictions that many PSAPs do not maintain up-to-date information.

Strategically, this project gives agencies a foundation to build relationships between GIS departments and public safety agencies within localities. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did, to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

CONSOLIDATION (Primary or Secondary) - (if applicable)



How would a consolidation take place and provide improved service:

Click here to enter text

How should it be organized and staffed:

Click here to enter text

What services should it perform:

Click here to enter text

How should policies be made and changed:

Click here to enter text



How should it be funded:

Click here to enter text

What communication changes or improvements should be made in order to better support operations:

Click here to enter text

BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

List the planned expenditures to be made with grant funds. (NOTE: In lieu of a line item breakdown, an itemized cost schedule or detailed vendor prepared quote may be submitted as an attachment.) Briefly explain the reason for each requested budget item and provide the basis for its cost:

Funding for this request supports the nine (9) PSAPs joining the regional MERG project. MERG was created to provide on-demand regional data layers for PSAPs and Public Safety. The jurisdictions will be connected via a VPN which allows data to be transferred back-and-forth between the entities. The dispatch mappings systems are then updated with surrounding jurisdictions' data.

The funding will provide a server and VPN connectivity and configuration to the MERG and five (5) years of maintenance as well as scheduled on demand updates to the dispatch mapping with the regional data set.

Server (RAID 5, 1 TB HD, 3.00 ghz processor)	\$8,000
Network Switches (GB HP ProCurve switch)	\$700
Fortinet Firewall for VPN Connectivity	\$1,300
Windows Server 2008 license	\$600
UPS	\$900
Serial to IP converter	\$300
Cables/rack/etc.	\$1,000
IT Labor	\$5,000
GIS Labor	\$3,000
GIS/IT Support and Maintenance of the System	\$15,000
	\$35,800

**Total for all
9 PSAPs \$322,200**

Total per PSAP \$35,800



How will the project be evaluated and measured for achievement and success:

This project will be measured against the current strategic planning initiatives of the commonwealth and of Wise County.

Objective: Continued improvement of data standards and accuracy of public safety mapping data

Measure: Review of Data Report Card and Standard Operating Procedures for 911 addressing & public safety mapping on a quarterly basis. Meetings with MERG partners to assess improvements, etc.

Objective: Create on demand update procedures of public safety mapping data

Measure: Communication with the technical staff of the PSAP and GIS/addressing departments as well as the vendors of software and equipment for automating processes and procedures to maximize productivity

Objective: Continue to combine the valuable GIS resources with the PSAP as well as Emergency Response Organizations and Regional PSAPs

Measure: Meeting with Emergency Response Organizations, MERG partners, and communicating with PSAP and GIS offices on a regular basis



FINANCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC REPORT

PROJECT PHASES

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

PHASE

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

INITIATION

(Project approved by appropriate stakeholders)

- Project concept is documented
- Local Board or governing authority approval or endorsement is received
- PSAP grant application is filed
- Local budgets are obtained
- Appropriated grant funds are approved
- Budgetary estimates are obtained

DESIGN/PLANNING

(Project, system, or solution requirements are developed)

- Requirements are documented
- Components to be purchased are identified
- General design is documented

ACQUISITION

(Selected system or solution is procured)

- RFP (or other bid related processes) are drafted
- Proposals are evaluated
- Contract is signed
- Purchase orders are issued
- Quotes are obtained/grant funds draw down

IMPLEMENTATION

(Selected system or solution is configured and installed)

- Purchased components are delivered and installed
- Training is performed

TESTING/COMPLETION

(Selected system or solution is tested and put in production)

- Performance of system/solution is validated
- System/solution goes "live"

Attachment A – Regional MERGII Grant Request

Host PSAP

Wise County PSAP

Participating PSAPs

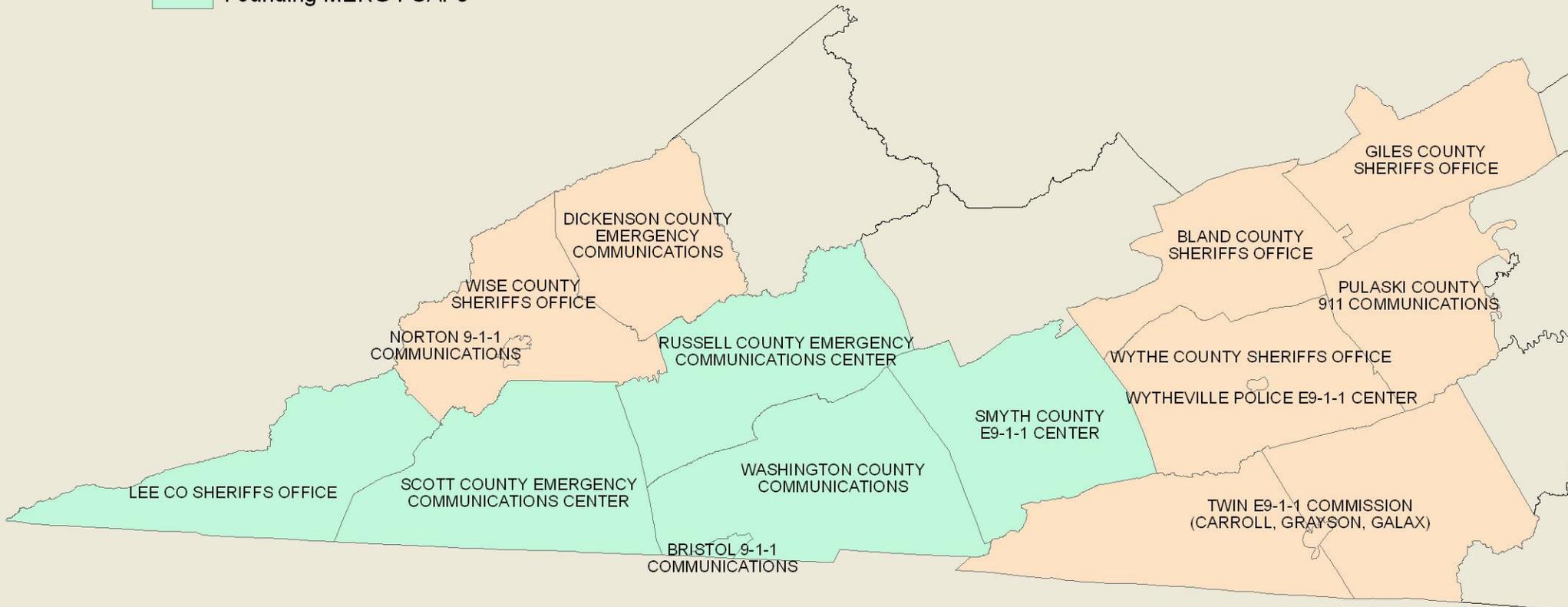
Wise County
Dickenson County
City of Norton
Twin E9-1-1 Commission
Wythe County
Town of Wythe
Bland County
Pulaski County
Giles County

Participating Jurisdictions served

Wise County
Town of Appalachia
Town of Big Stone Gap
Town of Coeburn
Town of Pound
Town of St. Paul
Town of Wise
Dickenson County
Town of Clinchco
Town of Clintwood
Town of Haysi
City of Norton
Carroll County
Grayson County
City of Galax
Town of Cana
Town of Dugspur
Town of Fancy Gap
Town of Hillsville
Town of Lambsburg
Town of Laurel Fork
Town of Woodlawn
Town of Fries
Town of Independence
Town of Troutdale
Wythe County
Town of Rural Retreat
Town of Wytheville
Bland County
Pulaski County
Town of Dublin
Town of Pulaski
Giles County
Town of Glen Lyn
Town of Narrows
Town of Pearisburg
Town of Pembroke
Town of Rich Creek

Legend

- PSAPs requesting to join MERG
- Founding MERG PSAPs





WISE COUNTY GIS

Geographic Information Sciences

Wise County Courthouse
206 East Main Street
P. O. Box 570
Wise, Virginia 24293

Phone (276) 328-7110
Fax (276) 328-9780
www.wisecounty.org/GIS

JESSICA R. SWINNEY, GISP
Geographic Information Officer

December 22, 2010

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean

From: Jessica Swinney, GISP Geographic Information Officer

Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant

It is the intent of Wise County to act as the "host applicant" for the regional grant submission with nine (9) PSAPS, which includes eight (8) Counties, two (2) Cities, and one (1) Town: Bland County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Twin County E911 (including Grayson County, Carroll County, and the City of Galax), Wise County, Wythe County, Dickenson County, City of Norton, and Town of Wytheville for the purpose of joining the MERG project by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders.

Wise County respectfully submits this regional request and also requests that if the regional grant is not funded, Wise County requests funding individually for connectivity to MERG.

The development and implementation of The Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) was completed and rolled-out in December of 2010. MERG was developed from funding provided by the E911 Wireless Board in FY10 to Six (6) PSAPs, the City of Bristol, Lee Co, Russell Co, Scott Co, Smyth Co, and Washington Co.

The funding in FY12 would allow an additional Nine (9) PSAPs to join the MERG project and would include ninety-one (91) percent of Region 4 PSAPs map data connected together using VPN and ArcGIS Server Replication.

With the processes and utilization of technology our goal is to maintain our current level of local funding required for our maintenance contracts while increasing services to our constituents. This regional project will be able to benefit from the initial regional planning, designing, and implementation of the original six (6) counties that were able to utilize the Wireless Board funding in FY10. Funding requested in FY12 is a significantly lower amount due to the regional collaboration of the original MERG project. It is our hope that the remaining localities in Region 4 as well as other regions will benefit from this project in the future as well.

Please find attached letters of support from each locality included in the grant submission.

Sincerely,

Jessica Swinney, GISP

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean

From: *Pat Huber, Pulaski Co Adm.*

Date: *12/16/2010*

Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant

Pulaski County 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County 9-1-1 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. MERG also has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

Another great aspect of MERG is that VGIN has access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG it will save VGIN even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, seven more PSAPs will be added to the MERG which includes nine counties and two cities. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean

From: Mark Cvetnich

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant



Dickenson County 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. MERG also has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

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Another great aspect of MERG is that VGIN has access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG it will save VGIN even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, seven more PSAPs will be added to the MERG which includes nine counties and two cities. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Cvetnich'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Cvetnich

Dickenson County

Director of Operations

TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE
COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT SINCE 1924

TOWN COUNCIL
MAYOR
TRENTON G. CREWE JR.
VICE MAYOR
JACQUELINE K. KING
COUNCIL MEMBERS
JOHN W. JONES JR.
H. JUDSON LAMBERT
WILLIAM B. WEISIGER



"The Hub of Southwest Virginia"
P.O. BOX 533
WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA 24382-0533
TELEPHONE (276) 223-3333

TOWN MANAGER
C. WAYNE SUTHERLAND JR.
(276) 223-3350

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER
STEPHEN A. MOORE, AIA
(276) 223-3352

TOWN TREASURER
MICHAEL G. STEPHENS, MGT
(276) 223-3333

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES/CLERK OF COUNCIL
SHARON P. HACKLER, CMC
(276) 223-3349

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean
From: Brian Freeman
Date: December 17, 2010
Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant

The Town Of Wytheville 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. MERG also has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

Another great aspect of MERG is that VGIN has access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG it will save VGIN even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, seven more PSAPs will be added to the MERG which includes nine counties and two cities. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Brian Freeman,

GIS/911 Coordinator, Planner



County Administrator's Office
340 South Sixth Street – Administration Building
Wytheville, VA 24382-2598
Telephone (276) 223-6020
FAX (276) 223-6030

R. Cellell Dalton
County Administrator

TO: Dorothy Spears-Dean
FROM: R. Cellell Dalton
CC: Ikey Davidson, Doug King
DATE: December 17, 2010
REF: FY12 Regional Grant

Wythe County 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. MERG also has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

Another great aspect of MERG is that VGIN has access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG it will save VGIN even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, seven more PSAPs will be added to the MERG which includes nine counties and two cities. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cellell Dalton', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

R. Cellell Dalton
County Administrator

City of Norton
618 Virginia Avenue
P.O. Box 618
Norton, Virginia 24273-0618



(276) 679-1160
fax: (276) 679-3510
www.nortonva.org
email: cityofnorton@naxs.com

December 17, 2010

Virginia Information Technologies Agency
11751 Meadowville Lane
Chester, VA 23836

Attn: Dorothy Spears-Dean
Public Safety Communications Coordinator

RE: Regional Wireless PSAP Grant Program – MERG Project

Dear Dorothy:

The City of Norton 9-1-1 supports entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. We believe that this project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. With the help of the Wireless PSAP Grant Program, which provided the initial funding for the project, the project seems to have been a huge success for the first six counties that have been involved thus far.

As you know MERG was created to build a GIS repository and a seamless regional data model. It was created to allow members to efficiently share data which before was an arduous task taking many hours of staff time to communicate with all the jurisdictions around them in order to obtain data. Now fully implemented, it has become the foundation for other localities in Southwest VA to join so that more PSAPs will have the benefit of being able to use adjacent PSAP's data in their mapping system for dispatching wireless calls and multi-jurisdiction emergency response. GIS data from each of the localities is updated into the system daily and appropriate data is outputted back to each PSAP to update their mapping system. MERG also has a regional web site that allows members to see the entire region providing a tool for regional emergency planning.

Visit Flag Rock - Norton's Mountain Masterpiece

MERG was designed to encourage other surrounding jurisdictions to join by creating sophisticated models and scripting on the ESRI platform that allow various data structures and formats to be replicated into the MERG data model. Therefore the system does not require members to modify the structure, naming conventions, or format of their existing GIS data. This encourages localities to join MERG as there is no impact to their current GIS processes already in place. It also serves as a backup system for their data.

Another great aspect of MERG is that VGIN has access to the member's GIS data. VGIN now uses FTP to download the data from one location rather than contacting each locality to request updated data. As more localities are added to MERG it will save VGIN even more time and expense.

With the funding being requested, seven more PSAPs will be added to the MERG which includes nine counties and two cities. The funding being requested will provide the needed hardware and software needed to join the MERG VPN. It will also provide the services needed to add each localities data to the data model and updating process based on each localities data structure. Localities will also be working together as the original MERG partners did to find a common agreement on jurisdictional boundaries and edge matching of data layers.

Thank you very much for considering our request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Fred L. Ramey, Jr.
Assistant City Manager

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean

From: 

Date: 12/20/2010

Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant

Giles County 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

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Thank you very much for considering this request.



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Eric R. Workman, Sr.,
County Administrator

P.O. Box 510
Bland, Virginia 24315

Telephone 276 688 4622
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Fax 276 688 9758

Email:
eworkman@bland.org
www.bland.org

Jessica Swinney
Geographic Information Officer
Wise County GIS
276-328-7110
Cell 276-393-2513

To: Dorothy Spears-Dean

From: Eric Workman

Date: December 17, 2010

Ref: FY 12 Regional Grant

BLAND County 9-1-1 is supporting entering into a regional grant submission with Wise, Dickenson, Bland, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and Twin County E911 for the planning, design and implementation to join the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG) by utilizing the FY 12 Wireless PSAP Grant program. This project will directly assist each PSAP in the ability to process Wireless 9-1-1 calls that are along our borders. MERG which was developed with funding provided by the Wireless PSAP Grant program and has been a great success for the six counties involved in it.

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Thank you very much for considering this request.



Shannon Williams, 911 Coordinator



Phone: (276) 783-3298 Ext. 208

Fax: (276) 783-9314

E-Mail: smyth911@smythcounty.org

Smyth County 911

121 BAGLEY CIRCLE, Suite 110 • MARION, VIRGINIA 24354

December 21, 2010

Dear Wireless Grant Committee,

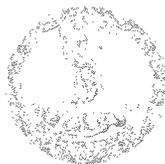
Smyth County is a member of the Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERG). We are one of six (6) jurisdictions that received grant funding from the Wireless Board in FY10 to create a regional data replication system. Wireless E911 calls do not know PSAP boundaries. Dispatchers and emergency responders need surrounding county data. MERG was developed to vastly improve the ability for our PSAP's to respond to Wireless E-911 calls by creating an on-demand regional GIS data repository. Each MERG member has access to the regional data and uses it to update their dispatch mapping. MERG has been a great success for those involved as well as assisting VGIN with keeping the RCL program updated from our mapping data.

Within the MERG project Smyth County is on the eastern edge. Washington County and a small part of Russell County were the only two jurisdictions that adjoined us in the project. Whereas this has been very useful to us we need more counties around Smyth County to join the MERG project such as Wythe County and Grayson County.

Therefore I am writing this letter in support of the regional grant being submitted by Wise County that includes nine other PSAP's. Included in the nine are Wythe County, Bland County, and Twin E911 (Grayson/Galax/Carroll). I hope you will be able to fund this grant request not only to help Smyth County but many other PSAPs in Southwest VA.

Sincerely,

Shannon Williams



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

James Duffey
Secretary of Technology

December 21, 2010

Dorothy Spears-Dean
Public Safety Communications Coordinator
Integrated Services Program
Virginia Information Technology Agency
11751 Meadowville Ln
Chester, VA 23836

Ms. Spears-Dean,

I am writing this letter in support of the FY12 regional grant – “MERC II” being submitted by Wise County that includes nine other PSAP’s. Included in the nine are Dickenson County, Wise County, City of Norton, Pulaski County, Wythe County, Bland County, and Twin E911 (Grayson/Galax/Carroll), Giles County, and the City of Wythe.

The development and implementation of The Mountain Empire Regional GIS (MERC) was completed and rolled-out in December of 2010. MERC was developed from funding provided by the E911 Wireless Board in FY10 to Six (6) jurisdictions, the City of Bristol, and the counties of Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, and Washington.

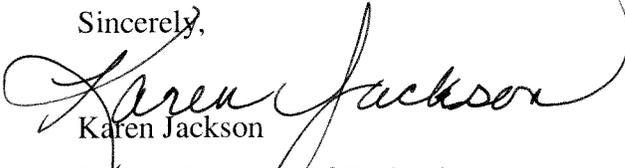
The funding in FY12 would allow an additional Nine (9) jurisdictions to join the MERC project and would include eighty-five (85) percent of Region 4 PSAP’s GIS map data connected together using data replication and web services, providing a cohesive regional access point for public safety operations and regional emergency planning.

Another positive aspect of MERC is that the state has access to the member’s GIS data. The missions of VITA’s Public Safety Communications and Virginia Geographic Information Network are enhanced through a single point of data dissemination versus requesting individual localities’ updated data. As more localities are added to MERC this regional initiative will save even more time and expense.

I fully support this grant request and feel that it will be a great asset to the Southwest region as well as the Commonwealth as a whole.

Thank you for supporting this request.

Sincerely,


Karen Jackson
Deputy Secretary of Technology