

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: MOU COOPERATIVE TALKGROUP USE AGREEMENT WITH BANKS COUNTY

DATE:03/05/2025

(x) RECOMMENDATION

() POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION:

() STATUS REPORT

ANNUAL-

() OTHER

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: 03/17/2025

PURPOSE: Habersham County and Banks County plan to share radio channels so first responders can communicate during joint responses.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: Joint emergency responses between both counties has been difficult. Each county has a different radio system and communications on the ground between each county's first responders is almost nonexistent. The goal with the agreement is to make communications between each county's first responders possible in a needed event.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- a. Habersham County has the equipment to create the shared talkgroup and audio patch on the new radios system.
- b. Banks County has identified a shared talkgroup to be utilized for this setup.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve signing MOU for cooperative talkgroup use agreement between Habersham County and Banks County
- 2) Deny signing MOU for cooperative talkgroup use agreement between Habersham County and Banks County
- 3) Recommendation from the commission.

RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: I make a motion to approve signing the MOU for cooperative talkgroup use agreement between Habersham County and Banks County.

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Tom Priddy

Director Lynn Smith_____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:**_____

_____ **DATE:**_____

County Manager

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
COOPERATIVE TALKGROUP USE AGREEMENT
(Between Habersham County and Banks County)**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into between Banks County, a subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its Board of Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as "Banks") and Habersham County, a subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its Board of Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as "Habersham") to establish cooperative and shared talk groups as set forth herein.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, Habersham is constructing a new public safety two-way radio network to support first responders with vital communications; and

WHEREAS, Habersham and Banks (which is inclusive of the public safety departments and agencies of each) recognize the need for neighboring agency communications, interoperability and cooperation in such vital communications; and

WHEREAS, Habersham and Banks have established interoperability capabilities and mutual aid agreements in place; and

WHEREAS, these plans and agreements formally extend beyond jurisdictional lines, in practice, they tend to remain intra-disciplinary; and

WHEREAS, today's public safety realities have highlighted the need for various agencies and jurisdictions to work together to establish interoperability communications and mutual aid plans that cross not only traditional jurisdictional boundaries but also cross disciplinary lines as well;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the aspirations set forth above, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Purpose.

To remedy the interoperability communication problem, Habersham and Banks have worked cooperatively to develop an interoperability solution. This solution establishes dedicated radio talkgroups with procedures that are accessible on communication equipment used by public service officials and public safety officials. The purpose of the shared talkgroups is to provide a command-level communications structure for mutual-aid events. The shared talkgroups ensure an organized method of coordinating resources to expedite efficient deployment of available resources and serve primarily as a logistics and unified command network during mutual aid scenarios for both counties.

Scope.

The shared talkgroups include Habersham Public Safety agencies as well as Banks Public Safety agencies. Each agency has its own interoperability capabilities beyond the shared talkgroups. The shared talkgroups for Habersham and Banks are listed in Addendum A attached hereto. Habersham will utilize the talkgroups on the P25 800 Megahertz (MHz) simulcast trunked Northeast Georgia Area Regional Radio Network and Banks will utilize its DMR UHF Kenwood NEXEDGE trunking system. Habersham will create a talkgroup to mirror Banks' 911 TAC 1 talkgroup that will then be virtually patched to a radio with access to Banks' DMR UHF Kenwood NEXEDGE trunking system. Banks will utilize an 800 MHz P25 phase II radio directly connected to their radio console system for mutual aid response.

Availability.

The shared talkgroups are available for use on as-needed basis any time multidisciplinary operations dictate or at the discretion of Banks Public Safety. At a minimum, the use of the talkgroups should be utilized during the planning phase for all large pre-planned mutual aid events and incorporated into any written operations plan. In the case of unplanned mutual aid events, use of the talkgroups will be in accordance with procedures outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of both counties.

Cooperative Commitment.

By signing this agreement, each agency using the shared talkgroups agree to participate in system-wide drills to the greatest possible extent. The purpose of these procedural requirements is to ensure awareness of the talkgroups and to prepare county personnel for their uses. Participating agencies are permitted to operate on the established frequencies but are required to provide and maintain their own equipment. (Participating agencies are all such agencies which are signatories of comparable MOUs.) Habersham will be responsible for licensing and maintaining the P25 800 MHz simulcast trunked system and Banks will be responsible for licensing and maintaining the DMR UHF Kenwood NEXEDGE trunking system.

Oversight.

Oversight of the shared talkgroups on the P25 800 MHz simulcast trunked Northeast Georgia Area Regional Radio Network is administered by the Habersham Radio System Administrator. Oversight of shared talkgroups on the DMR UHF Kenwood NEXEDGE Trunking system is administered by the Banks' Public Safety Director and Assistant Director.

BANKS COUNTY, GEORGIA
Board of Commissioners

HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
Board of Commissioners



Taylor Griffith, Chairman

Jimmy Tench, Chairman

Date: 3/4/25

Date: _____

ADDENDUM A

Habersham County Shared P25 Talkgroups

Talkgroups	Talkgroup ID	Operation Agency
SO DISP	300	HCSO
LAW TAC1	307	CITY PDs
LAW TAC2	308	CITY PDs
LAW OPS1	309	LAW OPERATIONS 1
LAW OPS2	310	LAW OPERATIONS 2
FD DISP	400	FD COUNTY WIDE
FD TAC2	401	FD COUNTY WIDE
FD TAC3	402	FD COUNTY WIDE
FD TAC4	403	FD COUNTY WIDE
AIR SUP	404	FD COUNTY WIDE
EVNT 1	200	COUNTY WIDE
EVNT 2	201	COUNTY WIDE
EVNT 3	202	COUNTY WIDE
EVNT 4	203	COUNTY WIDE
RD DEPT	204	COUNTY WIDE
WC TAC3	206	INTEROP TG WHITE
WA FD1	210	WIDE AREA FIRE1
WA FD2	211	WIDE AREA FIRE2
WA LAW1	212	WIDE AREA LAW1
WA LAW2	213	WIDE AREA LAW 2
WA EVNT1	214	WIDE AREA EVENT 1
WA EVNT2	215	WIDE AREA EVENT 2
WA EVNT3	216	WIDE AREA EVENT 3
WA EVNT4	217	WIDE AREA EVENT 4

Banks County Shared Talkgroups

911 TAC 1