

# MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTY OF ERIE  
OFFICE OF THE  
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## Erie County equipment upgraded for Next Generation Public Safety Radio System

ERIE, Pa. – The Erie County Department of Public Safety has reached an agreement with EFJohnson Technologies, a JVCKENWOOD company, to update portable radios with new, technologically advanced equipment as part of the county's Next Generation Public Safety Radio System.

The original equipment, which was deployed to first responders starting in fall 2017, was purchased as part of a bid awarded in August 2016. Since that agreement, JVCKENWOOD's product line has evolved to reflect new technology.

As a result, JVCKENWOOD has offered to replace all radios and accessories with the latest model – Viking VP6000 portable radios – at no cost to the county. This includes devices for first responders that were purchased by Erie County, as well as additional devices that were purchased by local law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies.

Under the agreement, all portable radios with the Next Generation Public Safety Radio System will be replaced by early fall. User training and full migration of public safety radios to the new countywide system will take place immediately after that date.

“While it is disappointing to experience this delay in the full implementation of the Next Generation Public Safety Radio System, this is an opportunity to ensure that our first responders have the most advanced equipment available, at no additional cost to the county,” said Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. “This technology will protect the lives of our citizens and first responders, so it is important that we take the extra time to give them the best tools possible.”

The upgraded VP6000 radios include options such as instant recording replay functionality, “man down” features, and Bluetooth and GPS technology in all portable and mobile radios.

“First responder and community safety are our top priorities. Our team has been actively working with county officials to ensure that Erie County first responders are equipped with the lifeline they need to stay safe and connected during an emergency situation,” said Duane Anderson, president and CEO of EFJohnson.

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