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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
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Congress of the United States
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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the City of Marion TDMA Radio Upgrade Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Marion, located at 107 South Main Street, Marion, South Carolina 29571. The funding would be used to upgrade non-TDMA-compliant radios to compliant radios.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it ensures that police officers in a rural, resource-constrained community maintain access to South Carolina's primary public safety communications network. The requested funds will be used to replace obsolete radios with TDMA-compliant equipment required to operate on the Palmetto 800 system. Without this investment, the City of Marion risks losing the ability of police officers to communicate with one another and with surrounding jurisdictions, creating serious risks during emergencies and in daily operations. This project delivers clear public safety benefits by preserving interoperability across agencies, improving response coordination, and reducing the likelihood of communication failures during critical incidents. It also avoids more costly emergency replacements or fragmented system upgrades in the future by proactively addressing a known statewide transition requirement. Additionally, this investment maximizes efficiency by supporting shared communication infrastructure used across multiple departments and jurisdictions, ensuring that federal funds benefit a broad service area rather than a single entity. Given the City's limited local funding capacity, federal support is essential to ensure compliance with statewide system requirements and to maintain reliable, modern communications for those responsible for protecting the community.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. Section 10381(b)(9)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress