

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Trust Fund Application for Funds

Proposal Instructions: The Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Trust Fund Grant Application (this document) must be completed by the entity applying for the grant and signed, as applicable, by either the individual applying for funds, an individual authorized to bind the entity applying for funds, a chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the Application carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed. In addition, please complete all Addendums that may be applicable to the proposed project or program.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. will make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. may make awards for:

- Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
- Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education; encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Pursuant to Florida Law, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. will provide priority consideration to Applications for projects or programs that:

- Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- Provide outcome measures.
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

Additionally, the Board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. may provide discretionary priority to consideration of Applications for projects and programs that:

- Are considered transformational for the future of the Northwest Florida region.
- May be consummated quickly and efficiently.
- Promote net-new jobs in the private sector with an income above regional average household income.
- Align with Northwest Florida FORWARD, the regional strategic initiative for Northwest Florida economic transformation.
- Create net-new jobs in targeted industries to include: aerospace and defense, financial services/shared services, water transportation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, information technology, manufacturing, and robotics.
- Promote industry cluster impact for unique targeted industries.
- Create net-new jobs with wages above national average wage (*e.g.*, similar to EFI QTI program, measured on graduated scale).
- Are located in Rural Area of Opportunity as defined by the State of Florida (DEO).
- Provide a wider regional impact versus solely local impact.
- Align with other similar programs across the regions for greater regional impact, and not be duplicative of other existing projects or programs.
- Enhance research and innovative technologies in the region.
- Enhance a targeted industry cluster or create a Center of Excellence unique to Northwest Florida.
- Create a unique asset in the region that can be leveraged for regional growth of targeted industries.

- Demonstrate long-term financial sustainability following Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding.
- Leverage funding from other government and private entity sources.
- Provide local investment and spending.
- Are supported by more than one governmental entity and/or private sector companies, in particular proposed projects or programs supported by more than one county in the region.
- Provide clear performance metrics over duration of project or program.
- Include deliverables-based payment system dependent upon achievement of interim performance metrics.
- Provide capacity building support for regional economic growth.
- Are environmentally conscious and business focused.
- Include Applicant and selected partners/vendors located in Northwest Florida.

Applications will be evaluated and scored based on compliance with the statutory requirements of the Triumph Gulf Coast legislation, including but not limited to the priorities identified therein and the geographic region served by the proposed project or program. Applicant Information

Name of Entity/Organization: The Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Walton County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (see APPENDIX B) in anticipation of a grant of funds from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., designated the WCSO as the project lead and implementation agency by the BOCC. This MOU stipulates the WCSO will serve as the lead co-applicant and managing entity for the County's procurement, implementation, and construction of a reliable public safety land mobile radio (LMR) system with high-capacity transmission to fulfill the County's long-term local plan of action and emergency preparedness goals by establishing and maintaining equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters.

Background of Applicant Individual/Entity/Organization: The Walton County Board of County Commissioners is a unit of government established by Florida law. Walton County spans 1,038 dry miles, extends from the Alabama state line to the Gulf of Mexico, borders six counties, the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Command, encompasses two protected areas, and includes a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO). A state-accredited public safety agency, the WCSO serves and protects the County's 75,305 residents (2020 U.S. Census), 5.3 million visitors (2023 Walton County Tourism Annual Report), and manages fire rescue (11 stations), ambulance, law enforcement (300 staff), and animal services. According to the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Walton County is Florida's 39th most populous county in the state with an estimated growth rate of 10% from 2020-2023.

Federal Employer Identification Number: 59-6002599 (Walton County, Florida)

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Michael A. Adkinson, Jr.

Title: Walton County Sheriff

Mailing Address: 10 Sheriff Circle, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Phone: (850) 892-8111

Email: madkinson@waltonso.org **Website:** https://waltonso.org

Identify any co-applicants, partners, or other entities or organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program and such partners proposed roles. No co-applicants, but letters of support from the following are included in APPENDIX A:

- Walton County Board of County Commissioners
- Walton County Sheriff
- City of Freeport
- City of DeFuniak Springs
- Walton Area Chamber

Total amount of funding requested from Triumph Gulf Coast: As one of the eight counties designated by the Florida Legislature as recipients of Triumph Gulf Coast funds, Walton County remains well below the other seven counties and \$25 million below the statutory minimum of \$34.2 million for each county*. Walton County is requesting up to \$20,152,671 for a new county-wide P25 interoperable land mobile radio (LMR) system. The total project cost for the county-wide public communications system and associated infrastructure is \$55,106,964. Walton County and Walton County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for a minimum of \$34,954,293 of the total project cost.

	Total Approved	Grants Approved	Grants Archived	Statutory Minimum Per County	Over/(Under) Statutory Minimum
Bay	\$ 194,077,029	15	44	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 159,877,029
Escambia	\$ 159,793,790	16	26	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 125,593,790
Franklin	\$ 13,400,000	5	17	\$ 34,200,000	\$ (20,800,000)
Gulf	\$ 53,867,774	9	11	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 19,667,774
Okaloosa	\$ 112,633,225	9	32	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 78,433,225
Santa Rosa	\$ 61,440,930	11	17	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 27,240,930
Wakulla	\$ 40,223,840	7	18	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 6,023,840
Walton	\$ 8,937,666	4	28	\$ 34,200,000	\$ (25,262,334)

**Data from myfloridatriumph.com*

Has the applicant in the past requested or applied for funds for all or part of the proposed project/program?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide detailed information concerning the prior request for funding, including:

- the date the request/application for funding was made;
- the source to which the request/application for funding was made,
- the results of the request/application for funding, and
- projected or realized results and/or outcomes from prior funding.

Describe the financial status of the applicant and any co-applicants or partners:

Walton County is a financially stable unit of local government governed by five (5) duly elected County Commissioners. The Sheriff of Walton County is a duly elected county-wide Constitutional Officer.

In a separate attachment, please provide financial statements or information that details the financial status of the applicant and any co-applicants or partners.

See audited financial report within the following link:

[Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Annual Reports - Walton County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller \(waltonclerk.com\)](http://www.waltonclerk.com)

Has the applicant or any co-applicants, partners or any associated or affiliated entities or individuals filed for bankruptcy in the last ten (10) years?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please identify the entity or individual that filed for bankruptcy and the date of filing.

Eligibility

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- ☐ Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties; Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;

Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;

- ☒ **Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;**

Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties.

- ☐ Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties; Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- ☐ Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties. Provide the title and a detailed description of the proposed project or program, including the location of the proposed project or program, a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating how the proposed project or program will promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, a proposed timeline for the proposed project or program, and the disproportionately affected counties that will be impacted by the proposed project or program.

2. **Proposal Title.** Walton County Public Safety Communication System.

Project Location. The proposed project extends throughout Walton County and its eight public safety agencies.

Detailed Description. The WCSO requests funding to upgrade Walton County's public safety communication system. The current land mobile radio (LMR) technology and tower infrastructure are insufficient to achieve coverage, capacity, and interoperability requirements, and the following details describe the WCSO's need to build a reliable, scalable public safety LMR network with high-capacity transmission to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to disasters. Just last month, and in its highest ever May forecast, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released predictions for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season predicting an above-average season and forecasts a range of 17 to 25 named storms for 2024. Of these potential storms, NOAA predicts 8 to 13 could be hurricanes with at least half becoming major hurricanes potentially reaching Category 3 intensity or greater (see <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>). Combined with the exponential growth of both visitors and residents in Walton County, this prediction is yet another factor in the immediate need to fulfill the County's local plan of action and emergency preparedness goals by establishing and maintaining equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters.

The WCSO supports 1,172 base, mobile, and LMR public safety and service users within the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS). However, the County's current LMR system

operates at the maximum number of radios and channels (LID capacity), is incapable of further expansion, and assessments revealed poor radio communications within and around county schools. Evidence of these findings and chronic queuing, signal losses, and dead spots led the WCSO in January 2023 to duly procure and contract for a third-party Public Safety Radio Analysis (Omnicom Consulting Group, Inc.) to diagnose the current system's degradation - paid for by the County – provide a Technical Assessment for the project scope.

The resulting Technical Assessment determined a need for up to 15 additional public safety radio towers to meet countywide 95% Service Area Reliability (SAR) for indoor and outdoor coverage. Currently, the Walton County SLERS is deployed in the L3 Harris Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) across three publicly-owned and three state-owned tower sites. However, the Florida SLERS converted to Project 25 (P25) Phase 2 technology in 2024 to ensure universal interoperability and increased radio traffic capacity. Walton's existing radio towers, constructed in 2000 and 2012, do not meet SLERS P25 capacity and coverage requirements.

Expanded building construction, population, and visitors strain LMR service coverage contributing to lost signals, dead spots, and queuing due to geographic features and increased system utilization. Walton County began experiencing successive decades of population gains exceeding 35% beginning in 1990 (U.S. Census Bureau) and recently hosted 5.3 million visitors (2023 Walton County Tourism Annual Report). Presently, the County has only two radio towers south of Choctawhatchee Bay - Walton's most-concentrated population and visitor sector. However, installation of a P25 simulcast system and expanded tower infrastructure will achieve the coverage, capacity, and interoperability requirements that support both current and continued population, business, industry, and visitor growth.

The WCSO's proposed implementation plan will integrate P25 technology to achieve countywide capacity, coverage, and interoperability requirements. Unnecessary project costs are eliminated, protections from obsolescence are incorporated, and long-term WCSO budgetary investments in operations, maintenance, and upgrades are included for sustainability. The P25 suite of standards ensures LMR interoperability across disciplines, jurisdictions, and manufacturers, and the County will facilitate the project's procurement process, while the WCSO owns, operates, and oversees Walton's LMR system.

In October 2023, Walton County approved and issued technical specifications for a P25 Compliant Radio System Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). Walton's P25 implementation is predicted to require 21 months. The WCSO requests Triumph Gulf Coast funding not to exceed \$20,152,671 to complete the purchase and installation of P25 master cores and dispatch centers equipment, simulcast and microwave backhaul systems, P25 equipment for 21 tower sites, talk group system for smartphones, and multi-band mobile and portable radio systems.

The County and WCSO are responsible for \$34,954,293 in matching funds for the countywide tower infrastructure and associated infrastructure, annual system maintenance, training and technology refreshes over a 15-year period. Meeting the project's established coverage objectives will require the design and construction of at least 15 new tower sites on publicly-owned or leased land, and in May 2024 Walton County posted a separate tower site design and construction ITN in support of the WCSO's planned P25 radio communication system. Walton County and the WCSO will assume the full cost of this portion of the project.

This project aligns with Walton County's broader Local Mitigation Strategy for reducing technological vulnerabilities; the Walton Emergency Management, Hazard Specific, and Incident Support Plans; the DMS (s. 282.709, F.S.) SLERS P25 transition objectives to ensure local, interagency, and interoperable public safety communications without radio frequency congestion; and the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. s. 288.017 (1)(d), F.S. award category for "*Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program*". The WCSO needs to upgrade the reliability, coverage, capacity, and scalability of Walton's public safety LMR network, and this standards-based solution requires the implementation of two interdependent equipment and infrastructure project phases:

1. Equip 21 towers located on publicly-owned or leased property and construct up to 15 new public safety radio towers throughout Walton County to achieve 95% SAR for LMRs.
2. Install a 10-channel simulcast P25 radio system with 28 dispatch positions serving the County's eight public safety agencies and purchase P25 LMRs.

Promote Economic Recovery and Diversification. High-capacity safety communication networks increase adaptability, facilitate interoperability, and enable faster responses that build public confidence and resilience. Resilience is a strategy for advancing long-term economic diversification, but diminished resilience, exposed when public safety communication systems fail to provide reliable coverage, can minimize economic growth and become a cost. This proposal builds long-term resilience as a strategic prerequisite by fulfilling both the County's long-term local plan of action and emergency preparedness goals by establishing and maintaining equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters and the basis for durable economic growth and diversification.

Promote Enhancement of the Disproportionally Affected Counties. Located in the center of the disproportionately affected counties, Walton's public safety training complex is a trusted regional hub for law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency operations training. The WCSO is a key participant in Florida's mutual aid and regional response network, and Walton's P25 network and infrastructure installation will enhance surrounding counties' interoperability and coverage with increased functionality, speed, and integrated operations.

TGC counties are familiar with both human-caused and natural disaster disruptions and this mission-critical equipment will provide redundant network reliability and effective resource usage to help ensure public safety disruptions do not minimize economic growth.

Proposed Timeline.

3. Explain how the proposed project or program is considered transformational and how it will effect the disproportionately affected counties in the next ten (10) years.

Walton County's first responders will receive compliant LMR capacity and coverage, enhancing the County's resiliency through increased functionality, speed, and integrated operations as contemplated by the Florida Legislature in allowing for Triumph Gulf Coast funds to be used for "*Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties*

to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;” (see s. 288.8017(1)(d), F.S.).

As a rural-suburban and economically bifurcated county, Walton’s population and visitor growth heavily exists within hurricane- and flood-prone South Walton where incomes and home values significantly exceed those in North Walton. However, over 40-percent of North Walton households earn annual incomes below \$35,000 (ESRI, 2019), and the effects of public safety crises typically affect poorer areas more adversely creating uneven resiliency baselines. According to the Florida Legislature’s Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Walton County is Florida’s 39th most populous county in the state with an estimated growth rate of 10% from 2020-2023. The ten-year increments for population growth estimates in Walton County through 2050 indicate nearly doubling the current population within three decades:

2020:	75,305
2030:	98,493
2040:	113,406
2050:	124,814

Reliable safety equipment and trained emergency personnel are equally important preconditions for strengthening public confidence and resilience beyond the County’s tourism-centric economy, and this project’s transformational effects begin with installing high-transmission communications across both congested and widespread areas. These upgrades provide redundancy and scalability as buffers against population growth and single points of failure, while ensuring interoperability with neighboring counties, optimizing resource usage, and streamlining operations. With a 36-month estimated timeline and a 15-year maintenance plan, the 10-year net effect will increase functionality of coordinated responses across public and private sectors within the disproportionately effected counties that reduce public safety risks and increase resilience.

4. Describe data or information available to demonstrate the viability of the proposed project or program.

Walton County’s LMR technology and tower infrastructure are no longer feasible, and the proposed P25 system and tower expansion solutions are in alignment with the WCSO and State of Florida’s public safety requirements. In brief, project implementation will remedy countywide regulatory and coverage shortcomings, reduce probable risk occurrences, protect against obsolescence, and right-set Walton’s network scalability and redundancies while optimizing regional and state interoperability.

The implementation expenses are fiscally viable for the WCSO with last dollar committed Triumph Gulf Coast support. Controlling costs and providing responsive, efficient public safety services are core provisions of the WCSO, an experienced leadership team who manage fire, rescue, ambulance, and animal services in addition to law enforcement, 911/dispatch, and county jail. This represents a rare integration of oversight among Florida sheriffs, and the WCSO is frequently heralded for delivering value-added services, effective

grants management, tax savings, and innovative programs, in addition to crime rates significantly below the statewide average.

5. Describe how the impacts to the disproportionately affected counties will be measured long term.

The project's core performance objective is reliable public safety communications, and numerous assessments will routinely measure the impacts and benefits of Walton's P25 system and expanded tower infrastructure within the County, as well as across cross-functional teams, and among disproportionately affected county agencies. This project's fundamental performance indicators for measuring operational performance include the following:

- Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for service.
- Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for service by District for: (a) EMS; (b) Fire; (c) Police.
- Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for mutual aid among neighboring counties.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations: backup power source and site overprovision effectiveness to maintain reliable LMR coverage.
- In-building Service Area Reliability Assessments (SAR).
- Outdoor Service Area Reliability Assessments (SAR).
- Voice quality and response times.

6. Describe how the proposed project or program is sustainable. (Note: Sustainable means how the proposed project or program will remain financially viable and continue to perform in the long-term after Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding.)

P25 technology represents this project's main facilitator for ensuring public safety coverage, capacity, and interoperability, and one-time investments are insufficient for funding a system's operational, maintenance, and refresh needs. The WCSO will operate, and oversee the Walton County system, and Walton County requires that the WCSO develop a long-term budget projection demonstrating sustainable funding for tower construction, system maintenance, oversight, and technology refreshes.

With a track record for providing efficient and responsive services, the WCSO's fiscal planning and performance give the Walton County Board of County Commissioners great confidence. Over a 15-year period, this project's sustainable funding plan will redistribute expenditures to sustainably right-set tower coverage and maintain P25 technology equipment.

7. Describe how the deliverables for the proposed project or program will be measured.

Supported and approved by the Walton County BOCC, the WCSO duly procured and contracted with a consultant to conduct a Public Safety Radio Analysis and needs specification, and thereafter to develop the technical specifications for the Walton County

P25 compliant radio system Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The ITN requested reliable P25 coverage, design, and equipment requirements that provide the best value while leveraging Walton's existing equipment and infrastructure. The proposed project's remaining deliverable outputs include: System implementation, including but not limited to equipment procurement, quality assurance plan, transition plan, and cutover plan; and Performance verification and assessment training. A second ITN for the communication tower and supporting infrastructure has been released and is currently on open procurement.

Priorities

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

- ☐ Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- ☐ Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- ☐ Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- ☒ Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- ☐ Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy. Provide outcome measures.
- ☐ Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- ☒ Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- ☐ Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

2. Please explain how the proposed project meets the priorities identified above.

Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project. The Walton County BOCC and the WCSO joined via a Memorandum of Understanding (see APPENDIX B) for the purpose of the proposed project detailed within this grant application. The WCSO serves as the grant's lead and Walton County's managing entity for its public safety communication system. In turn, meeting the project's established coverage requirements will require an expanded number of radio towers, and the Walton County BOCC will partner with the WCSO to help deliver publicly-owned or leased land as sites for new radio tower construction. All current and future radio systems (equipment) will be owned by Walton County. Tower sites (land) will be owned by the county or acquired through lease agreements with other public or private landowners.

Provide outcome measures. The WCSO will quantify monthly, quarterly, and yearly calls for service, calls for service by District, and calls for mutual assistance with neighboring counties, in addition to conducting routine outdoor and in-building SAR assessments. All specific and technical requirements will be detailed in a term sheet once the funding is approved.

Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program is located. Memorialized within the previously mentioned MOU, the Walton County Board of County Commissioners and WCSO are aware that Walton's public safety LMR technology and tower infrastructure are insufficient to achieve coverage, interoperability, and capacity requirements, and the parties wish to address the current system's inadequacies with the construction and implementation of a reliable, high-capacity equipment that meet the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) suite of standards referenced in TIA-102 published by the Telecommunications Industry Association and the P25 CAP – which is a formal process administered independently by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

3. Please explain how the proposed project or program meets the discretionary priorities identified by the Board.

THE BOARD OF TRIUMPH GULF COAST INC. DISCRETIONARY PRIORITIES	HOW THE PROJECT MEETS THE PRIORITIES
ARE CONSIDERED TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION.	This project's transformational effects begin with installing high-transmission public safety communications across both congested and widespread areas, and these upgrades will provide redundancy and scalability as buffers against single points of failure and population growth, while ensuring interoperability with neighboring counties, optimizing resource usage, and streamlining operations. The net effect is increased functionality of coordinated responses across public and private sectors within the disproportionately affected counties in ways that minimize public safety risks and increase resilient economic growth.
MAY BE CONSUMMATED QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY.	The WCSO's proposed implementation plan will integrate P25 technology into existing workflows, and Walton's P25 equipping and tower expansion predicts to require 36 months for completion.
ARE LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA (DEO).	Walton County, north of Choctawhatchee Bay and the intercoastal waterway, is designated a Rural Area of Opportunity.

PROVIDE A WIDER REGIONAL IMPACT VERSUS SOLELY LOCAL IMPACT.	The WCSO is a key participant in Florida's mutual aid and regional response network, and Walton's P25 network and infrastructure installation will enhance surrounding counties' interoperability and coverage with increased functionality, speed, and integrated operations.
ALIGN WITH OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS ACROSS THE REGION FOR GREATER REGIONAL IMPACT, AND NOT BE DUPLICATIVE OF OTHER EXISTING PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS.	Walton's proposed P25 system is in alignment with the WCSO and State of Florida's public safety requirements, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security P25 CAP, is non-duplicative, and does not supplant other funding. The project's implementation will remedy countywide regulatory and coverage shortcomings, reduce probable risk occurrences, protect against obsolescence, and right-set Walton's LMR network scalability and redundancies while optimizing regional and state interoperability.
THE BOARD OF TRIUMPH GULF COAST INC. DISCRETIONARY PRIORITIES	HOW THE PROJECT MEETS THE PRIORITIES
DEMONSTRATE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOLLOWING TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. FUNDING.	Walton County required that the WCSO develop a long-term budget projection demonstrating sustainable funding for tower construction, equipment purchases, system maintenance, oversight, and technology refreshes because one-time investments are insufficient for funding a system's operational, maintenance, and refresh needs. The WCSO will own, operate, and oversee the Walton County system, and the WCSO's fiscal plan and track record give the Walton County Board of County Commissioners great confidence.
PROVIDE LOCAL INVESTMENT AND SPENDING.	Walton County and the WCSO will be responsible for all costs associated with future enhancements, upgrades, training, maintenance, and refreshes associated with the P25 LMR public safety communication system, as well as radio tower design and construction.
PROVIDE CLEAR PERFORMANCE METRICS OVER THE DURATION OF PROJECT OR PROGRAM.	<p>This project's operational performance metrics over the duration of the program include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for service • Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for service by District for: (a) EMS; (b) Fire; (c) Police • Monthly, quarterly, and annual calls for mutual aid among neighboring counties • Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations: backup power source and site overprovision effectiveness to maintain reliable LMR coverage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-building Service Area Reliability Assessments (SAR) • Outdoor Service Area Reliability Assessments (SAR) • Voice quality and response times
INCLUDE DELIVERABLES-BASED PAYMENT SYSTEM DEPENDENT UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF INTERIM PERFORMANCE METRICS.	<p>The proposed project's remaining deliverable outputs are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) System implementation (including but not limited to equipment procurement, quality assurance, transition, and cutover). (b) Performance verification and assessment training
<p>THE BOARD OF TRIUMPH GULF COAST INC. DISCRETIONARY PRIORITIES</p> <p>PROVIDE CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.</p>	<p>HOW THE PROJECT MEETS THE PRIORITIES</p> <p>Installation of a P25 simulcast system with expanded tower infrastructure will achieve the coverage, capacity, and interoperability requirements that support both current and continued population, business, industry, and visitor growth in Walton County. While this project will not build out new industry in Walton by itself, the assurance of a reliable, high-capacity public safety communication network is a prerequisite for new and expanded regional economic growth investments.</p>
ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS AND BUSINESS FOCUSED.	<p>Since FY 2015, Walton County emergency operations averaged nearly four annual activations for tropical storms, hurricanes, floods, viruses, and wildfires. This project's public safety communication system upgrade and expansion will benefit disaster preparedness that help reduce realized damage impacts, elevate business and industry confidence in emergency responsiveness, and drive quicker economic and long-term recovery through coordinated cross-functional teams.</p>

4. In which of the eight disproportionately affected county/counties is the proposed project or program located? (Circle all that apply)

Escambia Santa Rosa Okaloosa Walton Bay Gulf Franklin Wakulla

5. Was this proposed project or program on a list of proposed projects and programs submitted to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., by one (or more) of the eight disproportionately affected Counties as a project and program located within its county?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. Does the Board of County Commissioners for each County listed in response to question 5, above, recommend this project or program to Triumph?

☒ Yes ☐ No

****Please attach proof of recommendation(s) from each County identified. See APPENDIX A and APPENDIX B detailing support from the Walton County Board of County Commissioners and other and the MOU between Walton County and WCSO.**

Approvals and Authority

1. If the Applicant is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before Applicant can execute an agreement with Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.?

The Walton County BOCC must review and approve the agreement at a publicly-noticed Council meeting and designate a signatory. This is further evidenced by the current project MOU between the Walton County BOCC and WCSO and support letters (see APPENDIX A and APPENDIX B).

(If additional space is needed, please attach a Word document with your entire answer.)

2. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the entity and Triumph Gulf Coast:

- A. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

- B. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners can hold special meetings for emergency and/or time sensitive issues with a minimum of five business days' notice.

3. Describe the timeline for the proposed project or program if an award of funding is approved, including milestones that will be achieved following an award through completion of the proposed project or program.

Phase I – Needs Analysis: Duly procure a needs analysis and determine financial investment in the project by Walton County. This includes public notice, hearings and evaluation of respondents. Contracted respondent shall assist with the development of procurements documents for new system in anticipation of two separate ITNs – one for the radio system and one for the tower system. (COMPLETE).

Phase II – Evaluation, Selection and Contracting For P25 Compliant System: Duly procure ITNs and evaluation of both radio system and tower system. Procurement evaluation shall adhere to both state and County procurement requirements as well as all technical specifications in the ITN related to vendors meeting the P25 compliance suite of standards referenced as TIA-102 published by the Telecommunications Industry Association and the P25 CAP – the formal process administered independently by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (COMPLETE).

Phase III – Installation of P25 Compliant Countywide Emergency Communication System: This phase shall run parallel to the County’s procurement, contracting and installation of additional radio towers throughout Walton County.

A full summary of the County’s procurement process, and answers to questions posed in the February 20, 2024 letter from Triumph Gulf Coast legal counsel to the Walton County legal counsel regarding “*press reports suggest Walton County is in negotiations with the single telecommunications vendor that responded to an Invitation to Negotiate issued by the county for the above-referenced project*” can be found in the February 28, 2024 response letter from Chief Deputy Donnie Clark from the office of Walton County Sheriff Michael A. Adkinson, Jr.

4. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the entity applying for funding. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc. In addition, please attach any support letters from partners.

Walton County is a Charter County pursuant to Florida Law and operates within State statutes, ordinances, and policies. The Walton County BOCC has authority to enter into agreements.

Funding and Budget:

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, awards may not be used to finance 100 percent of any project or program. An awardee may not receive all of the funds available in any given year.

1. Identify the amount of funding sought from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and the time period over which funding is requested.

Walton County is seeking \$20,152,671 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding for this projected 36-month implementation timeline and 15-year performance timeline.

2. What percentage of total program or project costs does the requested award from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. represent? (Please note that an award of funding will be for a defined monetary amount and will not be based on percentage of projected project costs.)

36.5%.

3. Please describe the types and number of jobs expected from the proposed project or program and the expected average wage.

Not applicable as this project is pursuant to s. 288.8017(1)(d), F.S.

4. Does the potential award supplement but not supplant existing funding sources?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe how the potential award supplements existing funding sources.

Walton County will be responsible for \$34,954,293 in matching Funds for tower infrastructure, annual system maintenance, training and technology refreshes over a 15-year period and all other associated costs for the countywide system. Meeting the project's established coverage objectives will require the design and construction of 15 new tower sites on publicly-owned or leased land, and in May 2024 Walton County posted a separate tower site design and construction ITN in support of the WCSO's planned P25 radio communication system.

Please provide a Project/Program Budget. Include all applicable costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

A. Project/Program Costs:	
Construction (*7.5%)	\$ 20,000,000
Reconstruction	\$ 0
Design & Engineering*	\$ <i>included above</i>
Land Acquisition	\$ 2,030,244
Land Improvement	\$ <i>n/a</i>
Equipment	\$ 20,152,671
Supplies	\$ <i>n/a</i>
Salaries	\$ <i>n/a</i>
Other (Training, Maintenance, Refresh)	\$ 12,339,749
Consulting Fees/Needs Assessment	\$ 584,300
Total Project Costs:	\$ 55,106,964
B. Other Project Funding Sources:	
City/County	\$ 34,954,293
Private Sources	\$
Other (e.g., grants, etc.)	\$
Total Other Funding	\$ 34,954,293
Total Amount Requested:	\$ 20,152,671

Note: The total amount requested must equal the difference between the costs in 3A. and the other project funding sources in 3.B.

- C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.

All other funding for this project has been secured by Walton County. The funds requested from Triumph Gulf Coast reflect the final funding required to complete this \$55.1M project. As stated above, Walton County will be responsible for \$34,954,293 in matching funds for annual system maintenance, training, technology refreshes over a 15-year period and all other associated costs for this countywide system. Meeting the project's established coverage objectives will require the design and construction of 15 new tower sites on publicly-owned or leased land, and in May 2024 Walton County posted a separate tower site design and construction ITN in support of the WCSO's planned P25 radio communication system.

Applicant understands that the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. statute requires that the award contract must include provisions requiring a performance report on the contracted activities, must account for the proper use of funds provided under the contract, and must include provisions for recovery of awards in the event the award was based upon fraudulent information or the awardee is not meeting the performance requirements of the award.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Applicant understands that awardees must regularly report to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. the expenditure of funds and the status of the project or program on a schedule determined by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Applicant acknowledges that Applicant and any co-Applicants will make books and records and other financial data available to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. as necessary to measure and confirm performance metrics and deliverables.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Applicant acknowledges that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. reserves the right to request additional information from Applicant concerning the proposed project or program.

☒ Yes ☐ No

ADDENDUM FOR LOCAL ACTION PLAN

1. Program Requirements

- A. Describe how the proposed award will establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters.

Florida counties (Chapter 252, F.S.) are responsible for emergency management, coordination, and training for the purposes of protecting their citizens and visitors, and their property, environment, and prosperity. The WCSO's proposed acquisition and installation of P25 equipment will reliably expand Walton County's LMR coverage, capacity, and interoperability to help reduce disaster impacts and enable faster recoveries. In turn, this project's 15-year training, maintenance, and technology refresh plans are active strategies to ensure all Walton County first responders' preparation and coordinated responsiveness to disasters and disruptions.

- B. Describe the type and amount of equipment and trained personnel that will be established or maintained by the proposed award.

In the initial phase of the project, the WCSO contracted a consultant to conduct a Public Safety Radio Analysis, and thereafter to develop the technical specifications for the Walton County P25 compliant radio system Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The ITN required the purchase and installation of P25 master cores and dispatch centers equipment, simulcast and microwave backhaul systems, P25 equipment for 21 tower sites, talk group system for smartphones, and multi-band mobile and portable radio systems. Meeting the project's established coverage objectives will require the design and construction of 15 new tower sites on publicly-owned or leased land, and in May 2024 Walton County posted a separate tower site design and construction ITN in support of the WCSO's planned P25 radio communication system. Walton County (and the WCSO) will assume the full cost of this portion of the project.

- C. Identify the specific local action plans (e.g., Coastal Impacts Assistance Program) that will benefit from the proposed award.

See Walton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 2020 (ATTACHMENT C).

- D. Provide a detailed explanation of how the proposed award will connect to a broader economic recovery, diversification, enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties and/or enhancement of a targeted industry.

The safety of Walton County's citizens, visitors, businesses, and environment are requirements for sustainable economic recovery, diversification, targeted industry expansion, and the enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The reliability of the WCSO's LMR communication system is a prerequisite for public confidence in essential safety services, and this project ensures coordinated response capabilities that augment resilience and durable economic growth.

According to the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR), Walton County is Florida's 39th most populous county in the state with an estimated growth rate of 10% from 2020-2023. The ten-year increments for population growth estimates in Walton County through 2050 indicate nearly doubling the current population within three decades:

2020:	75,305
2030:	98,493
2040:	113,406
2050:	124,814

In addition, the Florida EDR has estimated the County's Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) will increase from 3,072,674 in 2017 to 4,272,984 in 2022.

- E. Provide a detailed description of the quantitative evidence demonstrating how the proposed will promote:
- o Economic recovery,
 - o Economic Diversification,
 - o Enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties,
 - o Enhancement of a Targeted Industry.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. s. 288.017 (1)(d), F.S. projects have a return on investment that do not directly create new jobs, industry, or revenues but rather protect and support the basis for both population and industry growth. Further, Walton County's installation of a P25 communications system will achieve the coverage, capacity, and interoperability requirements needed to support current and continued economic recovery and diversification required by the Florida Legislature. The assurances of a reliable, high-capacity public safety communications network is essential for new and continued wealth creation.

2. Additional Information

- A. What is the location of the local action program that will be supported by the proposed award?

The proposed project extends throughout Walton County and its eight (8) public safety agencies.

- B. Detail the current status of the local action plans (e.g., new plans, existing plans, etc.) that will be supported by the proposed award and provide a detailed description of when and how the proposed award will be implemented.

See "Walton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 2020" (ATTACHMENT C).

Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.

All procurement documents for this project are available on the Walton County website at:
<https://www.co.walton.fl.us/>

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on my behalf or on behalf of the above-described entity, organization, or governmental entity:

Name of Applicant: Walton County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Michael A. Adkinson, Jr., Walton County Sheriff

Representative Signature:  _____

Signature Date:  _____

APPENDIX A

Letters of support from:

- Walton County Board of County Commissioners
- Walton County Sheriff
- City of Freeport
- City of DeFuniak Springs
- Walton Area Chamber

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

William "Boots" McCormick, District 1
Danny Glidewell, District 2
Brad Drake, District 3
Donna Johns, District 4-Vice Chair
Tony Anderson, District 5-Chairman



P.O. Box 1355
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
Phone: (850) 892-8155
Fax: (850) 892-8454
www.co.walton.fl.us

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
PO Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

May 14, 2024

RE: Triumph Project #324 – Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System

Triumph Gulf Coast Board Members,

The purpose of this letter is to express support for the Walton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Public Safety Communications System Project #324 (Project).

The BOCC brings this funding request to you in conjunction with the Walton County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) who will serve as the lead implementing agency for the Project. A pre-application for funding consideration is currently pending before Triumph Gulf Coast (TGC) and I am confident it merits the most serious consideration.

As you know, Walton County has realized unprecedented growth over the past decade and continues to grow significantly today. Resultantly, the existing public safety communications system in Walton County, designed and implemented in 2007, is insufficient to handle the increased demand being placed on it daily. This is unfortunately occurring at a time when demand on the system is at the highest in its history.

Over 75,000 year-round residents and 5 million annual visitors are protected by the WCSO. This important work is being done with a public safety radio system that is obsolete and inadequate to provide reliable coverage. The system is at maximum capacity today and cannot be scaled up for radio frequency coverage or improvements in interoperability without the addition of new technology and equipment.

Our Project will allow the procurement of Land Mobile Radio (LMR) equipment for up to 21 tower sites, P25-compliant mobile and portable radios for responders in the field, and the installation of a 10-channel simulcast P25 radio system with 28 dispatch positions for five agencies. The resulting increase in capability would allow WCSO, serving as the project implementation agency on behalf of the BOCC, to service the County's needs today as well as tomorrow by building a modern and scalable public safety LMR network capable of high-capacity transmission of voice and data.

We strongly feel that a community's ability to grow and thrive economically is highly dependent on its ability to deal effectively with emergencies and disasters. Walton County's current ability to provide an adequate public safety communications system is insufficient to not only keep current residents safe, but to also support future growth. The County's current safety needs as well as its future economic expansion is highly dependent on TGC funding for this Project.

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

William "Boots" McCormick, District 1
Danny Glidewell, District 2
Brad Drake, District 3
Donna Johns, District 4-Vice Chair
Tony Anderson, District 5-Chairman



P.O. Box 1355
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
Phone: (850) 892-8155
Fax: (850) 892-8454
www.co.walton.fl.us

The increasing need to improve our critical public safety communications infrastructure is significant as the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Walton County is dependent on it. Additionally, growth in the County is quickly outstripping the system's capabilities and consequently economic expansion will be imperiled if the Project is not implemented. Therefore, we believe this Project is appropriate and within the statutory guideline for TGC funding and we thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony "Tony" Anderson, Chairman

Walton County Board of County Commissioners



MICHAEL A. ADKINSON, JR., SHERIFF
Office of the Sheriff, Walton County

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

RE: Triumph Project #324 – Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System

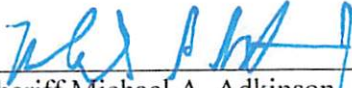
Triumph Gulf Coast Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the above referenced Walton County (in conjunction with the Walton County Sheriff's Office) BOCC Public Safety Communications System Project #324 (the "Project") pre-application currently pending before Triumph Gulf Coast ("TGC"). Certain factors, most notably the explosive growth of Walton County (the "County") in recent years, have rendered the current public safety communications system for our area inadequate. The provision of emergency services is a basic and fundamental need for any community. An inability to fully service Walton County with even a merely adequate public safety communications system produces a detrimental effect on not only current residents, but also for any potential future economic growth of the County. This Project is necessary to address both existing needs as well as any future economic expansion.

Walton County extends from the Alabama state line to the Gulf of Mexico, borders six counties, the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Command, encompasses two protected areas, and the majority of the county is designated a Rural Area of Opportunity. The Walton County Sheriff's Office (the "WCSO") serves and protects the County's 75,305 residents (2020 U.S. Census), 5.3 million visitors (2023 Walton County Tourism Annual Report), and also manages fire rescue (15 stations), ambulance, law enforcement (370 staff), and animal services. The County's current land mobile radio ("LMR") technology and tower infrastructure are insufficient to achieve existing coverage, interoperability, and capacity requirements. This is evidenced in part by the fact that emergency evacuation rate times for the County are among the Emerald Coast Region's slowest. This is unacceptable for Florida's 3rd fastest growing County, situated in the epicenter of the panhandle and serving as a focal point for TGC Region emergency management training.

Funding from TGC for this Project would allow for the construction and equipment of up to 15 new radio towers; the installation of a 10-channel simulcast P25 radio system with 28 dispatch positions (five agencies); and the purchase of compliant LMRs. This would allow WCSO, serving as the project implementation agency on behalf of the BOCC, to build a reliable, scalable public safety LMR network with high-capacity transmission capable of adequately servicing the current and future needs of the County.

We feel this Project is most appropriate for the type of funding for which TGC was created and is intended to provide. There is a dire need for a reliable and up to date public safety communications system for current residents of the County, and no future economic expansion will be feasible without the implementation of this infrastructure. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sheriff Michael A. Adkinson, Jr.

CITY COUNCIL:

Tracey Dickey
Elizabeth Brannon
Eddie Farris
Bud Day
Elizabeth Haffner

CITY MANAGER:

Mark Martin



MAYOR:

Russ Barley

CITY CLERK:

Kathie Gatewood

112 State Hwy 20 West

Freeport, FL 32439

Phone: (850) 835-2822

Fax: (850) 835-3137

www.freeportflorida.gov

Mr. David Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL. 32317

May 6, 2024

RE: Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #324

Dear Chairman Bear:

On behalf of the City of Freeport, **I would like to respectfully request your support** for the Walton County Public Safety Communications System project application before Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (Project #324).


As the Mayor of one of the fastest growing cities in Florida, I understand the importance in ensuring communities have the adequate resources and infrastructure critical to ensure first responders can carry out vital emergency services. Without enhanced emergency response preparedness and infrastructure, we are at risk of not meeting the increasing demands posed by this incredible growth. This project will provide our first responders with the ability to communicate during emergency events and effectively administer disaster related activities and services throughout Walton County.

This year, the State of Florida is scheduled to upgrade the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERs) to a P25 system to enable universal interoperability and accommodate increased demands for radio traffic capacity. These improvements will enable the county to greatly improve our emergency preparedness and help provide a more reliable, scalable public safety network for our first responders in the event of an emergency without gaps in service due to radio frequency congestion.

For the reasons stated above, we are confident this investment in public safety infrastructure will yield an unmeasurable improvement to our public safety and overall quality of life.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Kind regards,


Russ Barley
Mayor, City of Freeport



City Hall Location

1350 Baldwin Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Mailing Address

Post Office Box 685
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
Phone: (850) 892-8500
Fax: (850) 892-8506
www.defuniaksprings.net

Mayor

Bob Campbell

City Council

Todd Bierbaum
Council Member, Seat 1
Mayor Pro-Temp

Josh Sconiers
Council Member, Seat 2

Amy Heavilin
Council Member, Seat 3

Glen Harrison
Council Member, Seat 4

Anthony J. Vallée
Council Member, Seat 5

Interim City Manager

Koby Townsend

City Clerk

Rafael Ali

May 6, 2024

Mr. David Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL 32317

RE: Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #324

Dear Chairman Bear:

On behalf of the City of DeFuniak Springs, **I would like to respectfully request your support** for the Walton County Public Safety Communications System (Project #324).

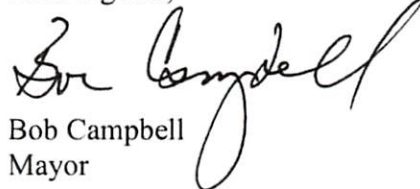
As one of the fastest growing counties in Florida, it is imperative that our community has the adequate resources and infrastructure critical to ensure our first responders can carry out vital emergency services. Without enhanced emergency response preparedness and infrastructure, we are at risk of not meeting these growing demands. We are confident this project will provide the capability to communicate during emergency events necessary to effectively administer disaster related activities and services throughout Walton County.

The county's existing land mobile radio (LMR) technology poses vulnerabilities and gaps in service while a reliable public safety LMR network with high-capacity transmission will greatly improve our county's emergency preparedness and enhance the local mitigation plan to ensure our citizens and visitors are safe. This upgrade will help provide effective and reliable communication between all responders in the event of an emergency.

For the reasons stated above, we are confident this investment in public safety infrastructure will yield an unmeasurable improvement to our public safety and overall quality of life.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Kind regards,


Bob Campbell
Mayor



63 S Centre Trail
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
Phone: (850) 267-0683
Fax: (850) 267-0603
www.waltonareachamber.com

March 26, 2024

Mr. David Bear
Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
P.O. Box 12007
Tallahassee, FL. 32317

RE: Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application #324

Dear Chairman Bear:

On behalf of the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, **I would like to respectfully request your support** for application #324 by the Walton County Sheriff's Office for the Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System.

The tremendous growth and development of our county has increased the need for adequate resources and infrastructure critical to ensure our first responders can carry out vital emergency services. In order to effectively protect and respond to the expanding public safety needs of our citizens and visitors, this project will provide for the acquisition of emergency communications equipment necessary to effectively administer emergency and disaster related activities and services throughout Walton County.

The county's existing land mobile radio (LMR) technology poses vulnerabilities and gaps in service. A reliable public safety LMR network with high-capacity transmission will enable the county to achieve coverage, interoperability and capacity requirements. This project will greatly improve our county's emergency preparedness and enhance the local mitigation plan to ensure our citizens and visitors are safe.

Therefore, we are confident this investment will yield an unmeasurable improvement to our public safety and overall quality of life.

Thank you again for your consideration of this truly transformational project.

Kind regards,

Megan R. Harrison, IOM, FCCP
President and CEO

APPENDIX B

- Memorandum of Understanding between Walton County and the Walton County Sheriff's Office.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (this “**MOU**”) is entered into by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County, FL (“**County**”) and the Walton County Sheriff’s Office (“**WCSO**”) each of the County and WCSO are individually a “**Party**, and collectively, the “**Parties**”.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, The County is responsible for maintaining a Public Radio System (“**PRS**”) capable of adequately servicing the public safety needs therein; and

WHEREAS, The County has designated the WCSO as the managing entity for the County’s PRS; and

WHEREAS, The Parties are aware that the County’s land mobile radio technology and tower infrastructure comprising the PRS are insufficient to achieve coverage, interoperability, and capacity requirements of the County; and

WHEREAS, The Parties wish to address the inadequacies of the current system with the construction and implementation of a reliable PRS with high-capacity transmission (the “**PRS Project**”); and

WHEREAS, In order to achieve the PRS Project, the Parties have joined as co-applicants for a potential grant of funds from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“**Triumph**”) and now wish to set forth the terms of that relationship and any resulting award thereunder.

NOW THEREFORE, Any award of funds from Triumph to the Parties in response to their joint application for the PRS Project shall be governed according to the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1. Lead Co-Applicant

WCSO will serve as the lead co-applicant. The County agrees to be bound to every statement and assurance made by the WCSO in the Triumph application, and shall have the right to review any application and supporting materials. As the lead co-applicant, WCSO shall:

- a. Apply for the Triumph funding award on behalf of the Parties.
- b. Directly receive any and all funds resulting from the Triumph application for the PRS Project into the WCSO Grant Budget through the appropriate mechanism.
- c. Maintain complete and total responsibility for all oversight and management of the PRS Project, including but not limited to all funds received from Triumph

for the PRS Project, through completion.

- d. Ensure that all funds received pursuant to the Triumph application for the PRS Project will be used in accordance with any and all State and Federal requirements related to the funds, including any restrictions on use set forth by Triumph.
- e. Ensure that the PRS project is carried out in accordance with Triumph, State and Federal requirements.

SECTION 2. Responsibilities of the Parties

The Parties shall work cooperatively to:

- a. Run and implement any and all Invitations to Negotiate and/or other requirements for procurement related to the PRS Project Triumph application and/or resulting award of funds in accordance with applicable law.
- b. Execute any and all other documents as may be required pursuant to the PRS Project Triumph application and/or resulting award of funds.
- c. Insure any and all resulting funds under the PRS Project Triumph Application are deposited directly into the appropriate bank account of the WCSO for PRS Project execution.
- d. Meet the responsibilities specified in this MOU in order to ensure the success of the PRS Project.
- e. Comply with all terms of Triumph and applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. Condition of Performance

The Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement are conditioned upon the availability of funds which are appropriated or allocated for the purpose of carrying out this Agreement. If funds are not allocated and available from Triumph for the PRS Project, this Agreement shall have no effect.

SECTION 4. Modifications

Consistent with the Parties' responsibility to implement the approved application, this MOU may be amended only by written agreement signed by an authorized representative of each Party. Modifications of this MOU do not relieve either Party from implementing the content of the approved Triumph award application. Moreover, in no case will a modification of this MOU relieve either Party of its responsibility to ensure that the MOU details the activities that each

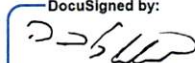
Party is to perform, or release either Party from every statement and assurance made by the lead co- applicant in the application.

SECTION 5. Effective Date/Duration/Termination

This MOU shall take effect beginning with the date of the last signature hereon and, if a Triumph funding award is received, ending upon the expiration of the Triumph PRS Project period.

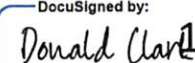
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Agencies cause their signatures to be affixed.

Walton County Board of County Commissioners (or designee)

DocuSigned by:
 11/15/2023
B6C9491D9F6742F...
Signature/Date

Daniel "Danny" Glidewell
Print Name/Title

Walton County Sheriff's Office

DocuSigned by:
 11/15/2023
00F8AB9751044F3...
Signature/Date

Donald Clark, Chief Deputy WCSO
Print Name/Title

APPENDIX C

- Walton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 2020 can be found online at:
<https://www.co.walton.fl.us/1368/Emergency-Plans>



COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

2020

WALTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

75 South Davis Lane | DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

850.892.8065

Scott A. Remington
Shareholder
Direct (850) 432-2399
sremington@clarkpartington.com

February 20, 2024

Via Email

Clay Adkinson, Esq.
DeFuniak Springs City Attorney
DeFuniak Springs, FL
Clay@adkinsonlaw.com

Re: Update on Potential Walton County Radio Project (#324 Walton BOCC-Public Safety Communications System Pre-application)

Dear Clay:

I hope this letter finds you well and good. I am writing to you in your capacity as Walton County Attorney. Recent press reports suggest Walton County is in negotiations with the single telecommunications vendor that responded to an Invitation to Negotiate issued by the county for the above-referenced project.

Triumph staff and board members reviewed one version of the Invitation to Negotiate (“ITN”) and expressed concerns about the specificity of the ITN. Specifically, I am told the ITN reviewed was so specific and detailed it was believed that it would generate only one willing vendor—which appears to have happened.

There could be many reasons only one vendor responded; however, should the county submit an application to Triumph to participating in funding the vendor’s contract, with only one vendor Triumph will want to make sure that the cost for the project is reasonable in addition to reviewing bid and contract documents. Triumph seeks to ensure every project it participates in is competitively bid. In this situation it is important for the costs of this project be in line with any other similar Triumph projects—like the Wakulla County radio project and that the costs are in line with state of Florida standards. Specifically, for contracts over \$325,000, Triumph reviews bid documents prior to public entities noticing the bid, reviews bid selection documents and vendor contract prior to final approval by the public entity. Triumph has conveyed to the County that the Florida Department of Management Services - Division of Telecommunications in Tallahassee has agreed to assist in reviewing specifications and bid packages. That Division oversees the construction of similar networks across the state.

To assist Triumph in evaluating this project, please provide the undersigned with a copy of the ITN published by the County for the radio project. Further, please provide me with a copy of any and all responses to the ITN—including any correspondence from vendors who did not elect to

Clay Adkinson, Esq.

February 20, 2024

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respond to the ITN and why. Finally, if the County has any other information about why the ITN did not illicit more responses, please share that data as well.

We look forward to receiving more detailed information on this proposal to determine how Triumph can best assist.

Warmest personal regards,



Scott A. Remington

SAR/paa

cc: Triumph Gulf Coast Board Members
Triumph Gulf Coast Staff



MICHAEL A. ADKINSON, JR., SHERIFF
Office of the Sheriff, Walton County

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Via Email

Scott A. Remington, Esq.
Triumph Gulf Coast Counsel
Pensacola, FL
sremington@clarkpartington.com

RE: Triumph Project #324 – Walton BOCC Public Safety Communications System

Mr. Remington,

We are in receipt of your recent correspondence addressed to the acting County Attorney for Walton County, Clay Adkinson, referencing the status of the Walton County (in conjunction with the Walton County Sheriff's Office) BOCC Public Safety Communications System Project #324 ("Project") pre-application currently pending before Triumph Gulf Coast ("TGC"). Your letter states specifically that,

"Triumph staff and board members reviewed one version of the Invitation to Negotiate ("ITN") and expressed concerns about the specificity of the ITN. Specifically, I am told the ITN reviewed was so specific and detailed it was believed that it would generate only one willing vendor—which appears to have happened."

We find ourselves somewhat perplexed by the above and other statements comprising the substance of your letter, given that we received no communication or record of expressed concerns from TGC staff regarding the specificity of the ITN. The ITN was crafted only with the level of specificity and detail sufficient to communicate to all potential vendors the technical requirements of the Project (including the requirements of the P25 Compliance Assessment Program ("CAP")), as well as the procurement rules surrounding it. It provides information on existing infrastructure and capabilities in conjunction with the County's vision of new elements necessary to build out a complete system capable of meeting the needs of our fast-growing County. Two primary vendors, Motorola and Williams Communications, attended the mandatory pre bid meeting, had full opportunity to provide input and ask questions regarding the ITN as advertised, and visited all the relevant existing tower sites to obtain an overview of current infrastructure. Both vendors met the P25 compliance suite of standards referenced as TIA-102 published by the Telecommunications Industry Association and the P25 CAP – which is a formal process administered independently by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Williams Communications submitted a full proposal compliant with the ITN, while Motorola only submitted a "no-bid" letter. Motorola offered no substantive explanation for not submitting a proposal other than - "After

detailed consideration of the County's technical requirements, operational desires and the resources required to deliver a successful project we will not be participating in the P25 Compliant Radio System ITN.” These are the same two vendors that submitted proposals for the Wakulla project, and both enjoyed the same competitive opportunity to participate in the Walton County Project. It is unfortunate that only one chose to do so, but we believe that is hardly the fault of the County or the structure of the ITN. The technical requirements of the Project were developed by third party, consultant engineers, Omnicom Consulting, LLC, (“Omnicom”) based on the radio coverage needs to build an adequate, robust and sustainable Walton County public safety radio system. These consultants were obtained to further efficiency in the process and ensure the Project specifications were appropriately tailored to address the specific needs of the County. If we are to understand the concerns expressed in your letter, it would seem to suggest the casting of a broader net in an effort to attract a wider pool of applicants potentially ill equipped to fulfill the actual needs of the Project; a proposition that would only seem to promote inefficiency and an ultimate waste of taxpayer dollars. If there is concern that Williams Communications’ current access to the existing towers in the system created a competitive disadvantage for other vendors without access to those towers, how could that have been ameliorated? In our view, crafting an ITN to eliminate the existing towers from the solicitation would have been irresponsible on its face. Not only would it have disadvantaged one vendor for the sake of others, but it would also require new towers to be built unnecessarily, substantially increasing the ultimate cost of the Project. Neither of those outcomes can be perceived as fair or fiscally responsible. Again, the ITN was developed based on the facts of existing capabilities in light of future needs.

Your letter further provides, **“Triumph seeks to ensure every project it participates in is competitively bid. Specifically, for contracts over \$325,000, Triumph reviews bid documents prior to public entities noticing the bid, reviews bid selection documents and vendor contract prior to final approval by the public entity.”**

We can assure you that the ITN was crafted to solicit all capable vendors in a competitive environment. The Walton County Board of County Commissioners finance department led the development of the ITN terms and conditions, while Omnicom developed the technical specifications for the Project. These two elements were combined to formulate the total solicitation document which was then reviewed by the Walton County and Sheriff’s Office legal teams and Chief Financial Officers in accordance with all state and local procurement rules prior to its final approval by the Board of County Commissioners and advertisement. We are currently in negotiation with Williams Communications, and any resultant contract will be made available to TGC staff for review prior to approval by the Walton County Board of County Commissioners.

Finally, your letter states, **“Triumph has conveyed to the County that the Florida Department of Management Services - Division of Telecommunications in Tallahassee has agreed to assist in reviewing**

specifications and bid packages. That Division oversees the construction of similar networks across the state.”

Members of our team attended a telephone conference with you on October 19, 2023, where the TGC process for the Project was discussed at length. Our notes from that conversation reveal discussion involving: the identity of Walton County as the applicant in conjunction with the Walton County Sheriff's Office acting as Project lead; the fact that the radio ITN was open and the infrastructure ITN forthcoming after internal legal review; that legal counsel was in the process of constructing an MOU between the Sheriff's Office and County for approval by the Board of County Commissioners; that the Sheriff's Office should endeavor to work with the County on their local action plan and point of contact for the same; and finally the next steps in the process. There was never any direction or communication provided from TGC either during that lengthy conversation, or at any other time, indicating a desire or necessity to have the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) review specifications and bid packages.

Further, TGC staff may not fully appreciate that DMS is currently under contract for its State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) with L3Harris, Inc. Williams Communications is an L3Harris product dealer and subcontractor for SLERS maintenance and administration. Given that existing business relationship, review by DMS of a Williams Communications proposal could therefore have the potential for ethical implications. Pursuant to the request for additional documentation in your letter, we have attached the following documents: a copy of the ITN published by the County for the radio project, a copy of all responses to the ITN including correspondence to that effect from the applicants, and a summary/overview of our response(s) to your letter. We trust that the above insight and attached information will serve to satisfy your inquiry and assuage any concern of TGC over the ITN process relative to the Project. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require anything further.

Sincerely,



Donald Clark, Chief Deputy
Walton County Sheriff's Office

Summary of listed concerns and corresponding response(s):

The ITN for the Project was too specific, resulting in only one vendor

- The ITN was specific only to the extent sufficient to communicate the following necessary elements to all potential vendors:
 - The capabilities of the current system, including existing tower sites
 - The technical requirements of the Project
 - The requirements of the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (“CAP”),
 - Procurement rules governing the Project
- The two primary vendors, Motorola and Williams Communications, attended the mandatory pre bid meeting where both enjoyed the following:
 - Full opportunity to provide input and ask questions regarding the ITN as advertised
 - Full opportunity to participate in all phases of the procurement process.

Potential vendors were disadvantaged by the specific nature of the ITN itself

- Crafting an ITN to eliminate the existing towers and system capabilities from the solicitation would have unfairly disadvantaged one vendor for the sake of others
- Crafting an ITN to eliminate the existing towers and system would have necessitated the unwarranted construction of additional towers at substantially increased Project costs
- Williams Communications and Motorola are two (on a very short list) of vendors that meet the P25 compliance suite of standards referenced as TIA-102 published by the Telecommunications Industry Association and the P25 CAP – the formal process administered independently by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - *Only vendors meeting these requirements could have been competitive in this process*
- Both of the listed vendors submitted proposals for the Wakulla project, funded by Triumph Gulf Coast

Desire to have the Project reviewed by the Department of Management Services (DMS)

- No direction or communication was provided at any point from TGC indicating a desire or necessity to have the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) review specifications and bid packages
 - We were only notified of this desire following an award of the ITN, which was preceded by multiple meetings and telephone conversations where such review was never mentioned
- We believe any review by DMS to be of potential ethical concern as our understanding is that there is a contractual relationship in place for the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) between DMS and L3Harris, Inc., an affiliate of Williams Communications, for product dealership and SLERS maintenance and administration