

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC PRE-APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Proposal Title: Franklin County First Responder Communications Network – Phase II Implementation

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$20,309,295

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$20,309,295

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: Franklin County, a local government, is a rural, fiscally constrained county located in Florida's Northwestern Panhandle and is one of the eight counties disproportionately affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The County covers 535 square miles, includes the municipalities of Apalachicola and Carrabelle, and serves more than 12,450 residents. Franklin County's economy is driven by fisheries, timber, and rapidly expanding tourism. The County provides essential public safety, emergency management, and infrastructure services to residents and visitors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NAMES OF CO-APPLICANTS, PARTNERS OR OTHER ENTITIES, ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL HAVE A ROLE IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Franklin County EMS / Weems Memorial Hospital
- Franklin County Volunteer Fire Departments
- Apalachicola Police Department
- Carrabelle Police Department
- Franklin County School District
- Franklin County Emergency Management

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Franklin County seeks Triumph Gulf Coast funding to implement Phase II of the First Responder Communications Network (FRCN) a modern, interoperable, countywide P25 Phase 2 radio system designed by Omnicom Consulting Group. Phase I, funded by Triumph, completed the needs assessment, site surveys, coverage modeling, and system design. Phase II will construct the full operational system.

(i) Amount of Funds Being Sought from Triumph Gulf Coast

Franklin County is requesting \$20,309,295 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding to implement Phase II of the First Responder Communications Network (FRCN). This amount reflects the competitive estimated cost for the complete 7-site P25 Phase 2 simulcast radio system, microwave backhaul network, ISSI interoperability connections, dispatch upgrades, mutual aid channels, and subscriber equipment. The total project cost is \$20,309,295.

(ii) Amount and Identity of Other Funding Sources

Franklin County has secured a \$1,500,000 legislative allocation to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for subscriber radios. The County will also contribute through site preparation, permitting, and long-term maintenance obligations. These combined resources ensure that the County can fully implement and sustain the new communications system.

(iii) Location of the Project or Program

The FRCN will be constructed across seven strategically selected communications tower sites identified in Omnicom's engineering report. These include St. Vincent, Apalachicola, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), Will S. Kendrick, Bloody Bluff, Leonard's Landing, and the St. George Island Air Force Site. Together, these sites form the backbone of the new countywide radio system and support the microwave ring topology required for high-reliability public safety communications.

(iv) Summary Description of the Proposed Program and Transformational Impact

The proposed project will replace Franklin County's fragmented and outdated emergency communications infrastructure with a unified, interoperable, and resilient P25 Phase 2 radio system. Currently, the County relies on two incompatible systems, SLERS for law enforcement and EMS, and an aged VHF/UHF system for volunteer fire departments. Coverage gaps, poor building penetration, and limited interoperability create significant risks during hurricanes, wildfires, medical emergencies, and multi-agency responses. The new FRCN system will provide seamless interoperability with Wakulla County's P25 system, Liberty County's SLERS system, Gulf County's MotoTurbo system, and all state agencies. It will deliver 97 percent countywide portable radio coverage outdoors, improved in-building coverage for critical facilities, encrypted communications for sensitive law enforcement and medical information, and a microwave backhaul network capable of maintaining operations during disasters. This infrastructure directly supports economic resilience by improving public safety, strengthening disaster response, and supporting tourism, business investment, and workforce retention.

(v) Summary Timeline for the Proposed Project or Program

The project will be implemented over a three-year period. During the first year, the County will complete final engineering, procurement, permitting, tower construction, and installation of the microwave backhaul network. In the second year, the P25 radio system will be installed, dispatch centers will be upgraded, ISSI connections to Wakulla County and SLERS will be established, and subscriber radios will be deployed. The third year will include full operational launch, system optimization, coverage validation, and the transition of volunteer fire departments from the VHF system to the new P25 network. This phased approach ensures a smooth transition, minimizes service disruptions, and allows for comprehensive testing and training before the system becomes fully operational.

The infrastructure cost estimate includes the following system components:

- Installation of a new tower site compound and 5-channel, P25 Phase 2 communications site at each of the following sites: St. Vincent, Apalachicola, FCSO, Will S Kendrick, Bloody Bluff and Leonard's Landing
- Installation of raised platforms for the communications shelters at Leonard's Landing and Air Force Sites.
- Installation of a new communications shelter, emergency power generator and a 5-channel, P25 Phase 2 communications site at the Air Force leased site location.
- Installation of 3 new dispatch consoles and operator positions at the Franklin County Dispatch Center primary dispatch location.
- Installation of 2 new dispatch consoles and operator positions at the Franklin County EOC.
- Installation of a new 6 GHz loop protected microwave backhaul network with one MHSB path with MPLS routers.
- Installation of a new loop fiber optic network to connect the FCSO, FCSO Dispatch and New Franklin County EOC building.
- Grounding, electrical and UPS upgrades as required at the FCSO Dispatch and New EOC Building.
- Installation of two new 6 GHz MHSB spur microwave links one to the Wakulla County Sopchoppy tower site and one to the Sumatra tower site for the ISSI connection to the Wakulla County and SLERS systems
- Installation of one 800 MHz conventional Mutual Aid repeater at each of the seven planned communications sites
- Installation of one ISSI gateway at each of the following sites: Sopchoppy, Will S Kendrick, Bloody Bluff and Sumatra
- Subscriber radios and miscellaneous accessories, key loaders, test and alignment equipment
- Installation of new access roads where required to new communications sites.

PROPOSAL'S ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY(S):

- 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.

PRIORITIES THIS PROPOSAL'S OUTCOMES WILL ACHIEVE:

- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Provide outcomes measures.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.