

Department of Emergency Response
And Communications
Cortland County 911
Public Safety Building; Suite 201
54 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York 13045

May 18, 2017

Dan Hill
Transportation

Jeff Delia
Transportation

Mike Falls
Business Manager
Homer Central Schools

I am writing to ask your permission to allow Cortland County to replace the two radios in your school buses.

Cortland County was awarded a grant in 2016 to expand the coverage of the County's radio system to include public service agencies. The grant, administered by the Cortland County Department of Emergency Response and Communications (DOERC), was awarded by the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Interoperable Emergency Communications (NYS DHES OIEC). The grant will cover the removal of the current equipment in school buses and installation and programming of the new equipment. All radio licenses will fall under the auspices of Cortland County. The Cortland County Department of Emergency Response and Communications will be the lead agency for this project, including all fiduciary requirements.

The County's plan is to replace the current two way radios in your school buses that run on a shared repeater system in favor of using radios that work on the County's trunked radio system. The County's radio system efficiently supports all of the law, fire and EMS agencies in the county as well as numerous public service agencies (county, town and village highways, etc).

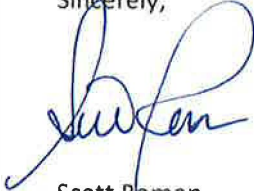
The benefits of this changeover include better radio coverage for the buses, the ability for school bus drivers to communicate with the 911 center (and other first responders) during times of emergency and reduced costs for the participating school districts. Your school district already participates in use of the County's radio system, albeit on a limited basis. This grant program will expand this participation.

I have already begun preliminary discussions with your transportation and business office personnel to confirm their interest in expanding their participation. The purpose of this letter is to ensure that the school boards are aware of this project, the expansion of this program and the benefits it provides to all participants.

The only caveat to the acceptance of the grant program is to allow the County's office of Emergency Management the use of school buses in times of emergency for the transportation of people or personnel as needed. This caveat has been in place for numerous years, with the school districts always being there for their communities in the time of need. There is no change to this participation, this project allows for greater communication when the time arises.

If you have any questions about this grant program or your districts participation please feel free to contact me at my office at 607-753-5064 or my cell on 607-423-4441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Roman". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Roman
Director