

Verizon Wireless Cell Tower

5-year contract to lease space at Sta 6 (Johnson Ln) and Sta 14 (County Rd)

Beneficiaries of Enhanced Connectivity

- Citizens of Douglas County
 - Increases access to 911
 - Increases probability of notification during an emergency
 - Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)
 - Threat notifications
 - Amber Alerts
 - Other emergency notifications
 - 11,588 cellphones registered at Douglas County Emergency 911
- Public Safety Agencies
 - East Fork Fire Protection District
 - Douglas County Sheriffs Office
 - Mutual Aid responders

Background on Cellular Use at East Fork Fire

- Automatic Vehicle Locating
 - Closest Unit
 - Quickest Route
- Push Button Communications with Dispatch
 - More accurate reporting and data collection
 - Relieves radio traffic on a taxed system
- In vehicle reporting
- Programs
 - Pre-planning
 - Charting

Emergency Radio Communications

- Current radio system needs upgrade
- Sites are hard to come by
 - Backhaul of information to dispatch limitations
- East Fork Fire will be given the top of the tower for Emergency Radio Communications
 - Backhaul of information to dispatch

Safety

- Several meeting with Verizon
 - Education regarding Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMF) (Non Ionizing Radiation)
 - How the antennas work
 - How the frequencies dissipate
 - How 5G works
- Each site has an EMF study
- IAFF

Emergency Management

- Douglas County subscribes to Verizon Wireless
 - East Fork Fire left Verizon due to coverage gaps in key areas
- During the Flood event of February/March 2023, County members working in the EOC were not able to affectively communicate in or out of the EOC until specialized equipment could be ordered and delivered by Verizon Wireless
- This contract would fix that issue

Recommendation

It is recommended to enter into a 5-year contract with Verizon Wireless to lease an area for a Cellular Tower and associated Equipment Building pending all required permitting:

Fire Station 6 (Johnson Ln) for the total of \$65,000

Fire Station 14 (County Rd) for the total of \$80,000