FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County hosts Public Safety 800MHz Radio System Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony 11 a.m. Friday

September 9, 2020 – Flagler County will unveil its new Public Safety 800MHz Radio System at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday (September 11) at Old Dixie Park in Bunnell. The public is welcome to attend.

“It is fitting to celebrate a system that improves the lives of and helps protect our first responders through better communications and multi-agency interoperability on September 11,” said Chief Information Officer Jarrod Shupe, who worked as a firefighter and EMT in New York, early in his career.

Flagler County has been working to implement the enhanced APCO P25 (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Project 25) digital voice and data communication systems suited to public safety and first responders for over three years. Project 25 set a standard for digital radio equipment embracing the public safety-focused features of interoperability, spectrum efficiency, and cost economies.

The $15.2 million system augments the coverage of the previous 800 MHz system with six towers – Old Dixie Park, County Road 304 and State Road 11, County Road 305 and State Road, Matanzas Parkway near the high school, at the Government Services Complex, and the Jail complex – as well as repeaters.

“This is all brand new – sites, towers, equipment,” Shupe said. “The towers are hurricane rated to withstand 160 mph winds, and there are multiple redundancies. This is a Phase II system, which means there are 18 talk paths instead of just nine, which increases our capacity.”

The system has interoperability with the neighboring St. Johns County, and the tower at Old Dixie Park is located for shared use and future interoperability with Volusia County. There are future plans for interoperability with Putnam County as well. It increases the security and safety of the end users.

Flagler County has a 20-year contract with Motorola for the service. Project partners include: Flagler County Sheriff’s Office, Palm Coast, Flagler Beach, Bunnell, and Flagler Schools.

The ribbon-cutting will be held at 11 a.m. September 11 at Old Dixie Park, 1250 S. Old Dixie Highway, Bunnell.