

**Proviso 93.7:
First Responder Interoperability
FY 2025-26 Report on Agency Compliance**



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REPORT OVERVIEW

Proviso 93.7 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Appropriations Act authorizes the South Carolina Department of Administration (Admin) to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations through the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to enhance the coordination of public safety communications and disaster response. This report provides an overview of accomplishments and activities undertaken during FY 2025-26 in support of the proviso, as well as plans for continued interoperability efforts. As required by the proviso, the report also identifies entities not yet integrated into the Palmetto 800 system as of the applicable reporting date.

In FY 2026-27, the General Assembly amended the proviso and redesignated it as Proviso 117.200. The amended proviso transfers the First Responder Interoperability Program, including its employees, assets, liabilities, contracts and appropriated funds, from Admin to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Beginning in FY 2026-27, SLED is responsible for administering and coordinating First Responder Interoperability operations through the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to support coordinated public safety communications and disaster response.

Accordingly, Admin is submitting this report to address activities and reporting requirements applicable to FY 2025-26. SLED will be responsible for submitting the corresponding report required under Proviso 117.200 for FY 2026-27.

Proviso 93.7 (FY 2025-26)

“The Department of Administration is directed to administer and coordinate First Responder Interoperability operations for the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system to better coordinate public safety disaster responses and communications. First Responder Interoperability administration and coordination shall be funded as provided in this act. The cost-proportional funds shall be utilized for radio user fees of state agencies and public safety first responders (Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement) that participate in the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system (Palmetto 800 participants). The Department of Administration, in consultation with the State Law Enforcement Division, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Emergency Management Division, and a representative of the South Carolina Sheriffs Association, shall set a baseline number of radios used by each Palmetto 800 participant based on the technical aspects of the Palmetto 800 radio system and the jurisdictional requirements of the participant. If a Palmetto 800 participant reduces the baseline number of radios in use, the amount of funds allocated for the participants radio user fees shall be reduced in a proportional amount. The funds shall also be utilized to provide private county and city radio systems with grant funds to be used for purchases of equipment that support interoperability with the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system and its users. Grant funds shall be allocated to private county and city radio systems based on the criteria used for Palmetto 800 Participants and in amounts proportional to the amounts allocated to support the per-site radio user fees of Palmetto 800 participants. A matching share is required by a Palmetto 800 participant

or by a private county or city radio system in order to qualify for receipt of funds pursuant to this proviso. Each fiscal year the Department of Administration shall establish the level of match required based upon funding provided by this act. These entities shall be required to furnish such documentation as may be required by the department to verify that the matching funds requirement is met. Upon funding state agency and public safety first responder user fees and private county and city equipment purchases, any remaining funds may be used to enhance and expand the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system. All funds shall be held in a separate account established by the department for the purposes set forth herein. Any unexpended portion of these funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose. In the calculation of any across-the-board budget reduction mandated by the Executive Budget Office or General Assembly, the amount appropriated to the Department of Administration for First Responder Interoperability must be excluded from the departments base budget.

The Department of Administration shall provide a report on the status of the integration of the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system which shall include, but not be limited to, a list of entities who are not integrated into the system as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year and the reason why they are not integrated. The report shall be submitted by October first, of the current fiscal year to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.”

SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM ACTIVITIES

Funding to Assist First Responders

The First Responder Interoperability Proviso of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act funds provided a 30% match to assist state and local first responders participating in the Palmetto 800 Statewide Radio Network. This funding also provided 30% in matching funds for eligible equipment purchases to first responder agencies on private county and city 800 MHz systems to support interoperability between those systems and the Palmetto 800 radio network.

Palmetto 800 User Update

The Palmetto 800 radio network public-private partnership continues to be a model across the United States for its statewide interoperability, adoption rate and technical capabilities. As of June 30, 2026, the system supports a total of 85,507 primary and interoperability users. Of these, 69,509 are primary users, including 7,211 state agency radios. An additional 15,998 subscriber IDs have been assigned for interoperability and mutual aid use with compatible external systems.

Top 10 Users by Number of Radios (as of June 30, 2026):

- ▶ Charleston County Government – 9,652
- ▶ Beaufort County Sheriff's Office – 8,932
- ▶ Greenville County – 3,169
- ▶ Florence County – 2,784

- ▶ Anderson County P25 – 2,448
- ▶ SC Department of Public Safety – 1,927
- ▶ Sumter County – 1,895
- ▶ Marion County – 1,623
- ▶ Richland County Sheriff's Department – 1,380
- ▶ Lancaster County – 1,267

Network Expansion

During FY 2025-26, construction began on eight Palmetto 800 site expansions. Six new sites in Aiken County are being added through a partnership between Aiken County and Motorola Solutions. Construction also began on the Cheraw site in Chesterfield County, one of three expansion sites included in the negotiated Palmetto 800 contract. Site and structural surveys have also begun for the remaining two contract expansion sites, Weir Hill and Green Pond, which were included in the FY 2024-25 contract renewal.

In addition to these expansion efforts, the Palmetto 800 system continues to support 51 dispatch communications systems that connect directly to the statewide radio network through wireline interfaces. During FY 2025-26, work began on three additional wireline dispatch consoles that are in progress and are expected to be completed in FY 2026-27.

Site Expansions Under Construction During FY 2025-26:

- ▶ Jackson – Aiken County
- ▶ Jaywood Road – Aiken County
- ▶ Kitchings Mill – Aiken County
- ▶ Wagener – Aiken County
- ▶ Foxtown – Aiken County
- ▶ Trenton – Aiken County
- ▶ Cheraw – Chesterfield County

Proposed New Contract Negotiated Site Additions:

- ▶ Weir Hill – Richland County
- ▶ Green Pond – Colleton County

New in Progress Wireline Dispatch Console Additions:

- ▶ Union County
- ▶ Laurens County
- ▶ Williamsburg County

New Users

New customers were added to the system between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, including:

- ▶ Admin's Division of Facilities Management and Property Services

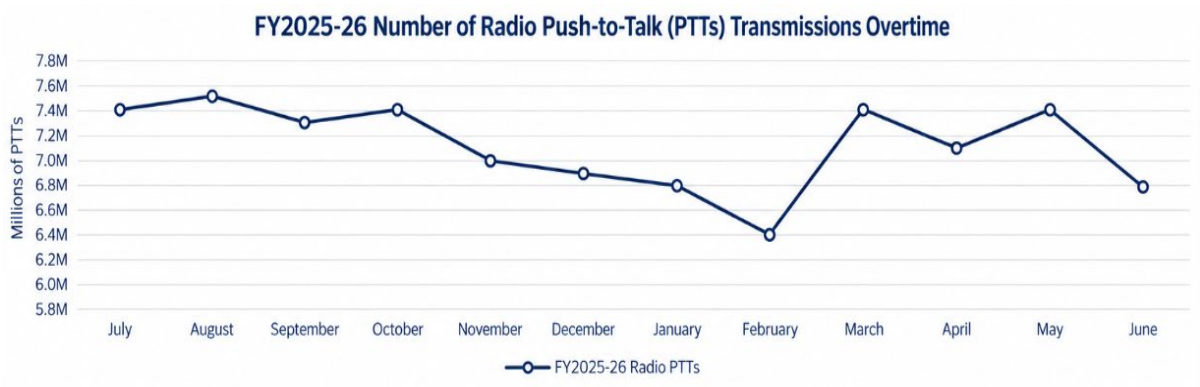
- ▶ Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ MUSC Health – Kiawah Emergency Department and Chester Medical Center
- ▶ Jasper County School District
- ▶ South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, Office of Law Enforcement – Shellfish
- ▶ Novant Health
- ▶ Health Pavilion at Sawmill Centre
- ▶ Converse Fire Department
- ▶ Lowcountry Medical Response, LLC
- ▶ Spartanburg Methodist College
- ▶ AMG Specialty Hospital – Charleston
- ▶ High Point Fire District

Palmetto 800 Network Statistics

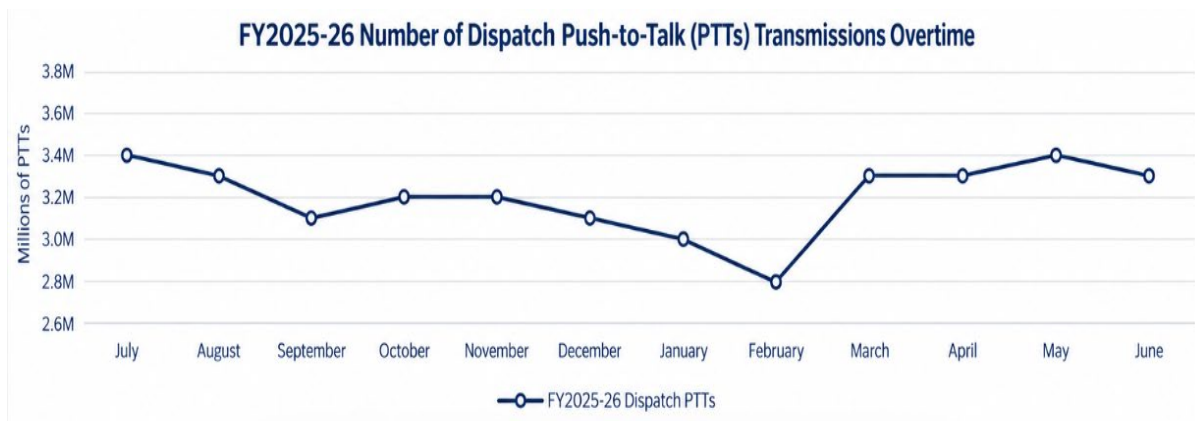
To provide transparency into the operational use of South Carolina’s statewide radio network, the following section highlights key system performance metrics for FY 2025-26. These analytics offer insight into the volume of communications traffic the system supports in its mission to enable reliable, real-time coordination across all levels of public safety.

Over the fiscal year, the Palmetto 800 system supported 85,458,546 push-to-talk (PTT) transmissions. On average, the system handles approximately 7,121,545 PTTs per month, which equates to roughly 9,900 PTTs per hour.

- ▶ The first graph illustrates the total number of monthly PTT transmissions initiated by field radios, reflecting direct usage by law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and other front-line public safety personnel.



- ▶ The second graph displays monthly PTT transmissions initiated by dispatch consoles located in 911 centers and emergency operations centers. These transmissions are a key indicator of system usage for coordinating multiunit response and managing day-to-day operations.



Together, these metrics demonstrate the Palmetto 800 system’s ability to handle a substantial and sustained volume of daily voice traffic, providing a resilient and mission-critical communications platform for both routine operations and high-impact emergencies.

Private County and Adjacent State System Interoperability

York and Horry counties in South Carolina, along with Augusta-Richmond, Georgia; Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; and the state of North Carolina, own and operate their own 800 MHz P25 radio systems that are compatible with the South Carolina Palmetto 800 network. There is a total of 15,998 mutual aid IDs on the system designated to support interoperability between these systems and their agencies. Because of the compatibility between systems, state agencies, local government and first responders in all three states can respond across state lines in support of one another as needed. This interoperability provides invaluable mutual aid during events and in emergency situations as well as day-to-day operations for agencies that operate along the border where coverage is shared between the different systems.

Top 10 Interoperability Users by Number of Radios (as of June 30, 2025):

- ▶ Horry County, SC – 5,271
- ▶ York County, SC – 4,170
- ▶ Mecklenburg County, NC Charlotte Fire/Fire and EMS – 2,534
- ▶ State of North Carolina – 1,000
- ▶ Augusta, Richmond, Ga. – 850
- ▶ Union County, NC Emergency Services – 705
- ▶ Anson County, NC Emergency Management – 424
- ▶ Polk County, NC Emergency Management – 178
- ▶ Union County, NC Monroe Fire – 122
- ▶ Union County, NC – 119

FIRST RESPONDER INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS

Admin's Public Safety Communications Team

The Emergency Services team, part of Admin's Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) in FY 2025-26, is tasked with the mission of ensuring communications interoperability and coordination between law enforcement, fire and EMS responders working events throughout South Carolina. This mission also requires coordination with other state agency partners and with private-sector service providers.

This mission required the team to provide communications interoperability support to more than 50 agencies across a variety of events during FY 2025-26. During the fiscal year, the team processed 243 requests for communications support, 37 of which included the deployment of communications equipment. The following sample of events is listed in order of operational complexity and number of resources deployed:

- ▶ 2026 winter weather
- ▶ 2026 Hurricane Imelda
- ▶ 2025 Anderson County Rock the Country
- ▶ 2026 Hamilton Career Center mass casualty drill
- ▶ 2026 SLED multiagency operation
- ▶ 2025 Darlington Labor Day events
- ▶ 2025 McCormick County escaped fugitive
- ▶ 2026 Spartanburg County severe weather event
- ▶ 2026 Carolina Cup Steeplechase
- ▶ 2026 Darlington spring race
- ▶ 2026 SC Army National Guard land navigation training
- ▶ 2025 Irmo Okra Strut
- ▶ 2026 U.S. Forest Service saturation patrol
- ▶ 2025 Laurens County Lights on the Lake
- ▶ 2025 Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office transitional patch
- ▶ 2026 SC Emergency Repatriation Exercise
- ▶ 2025 SC State Homecoming
- ▶ 2025 Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office Transitional Patch
- ▶ 2025 Darlington Labor Day events
- ▶ Federal, state and local joint interdiction operations
- ▶ Missing persons and search-and-rescue operations
- ▶ Firefighter mobilization line-of-duty death support missions
- ▶ Claflin University special campus events
- ▶ Clemson University home athletic contests and special campus events
- ▶ South Carolina State University special campus events
- ▶ University of South Carolina home athletic contests and special campus events

South Carolina State Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

OTIS maintained the State Strategic Technology Reserve (STR), a tactical reserve of deployable communications equipment available to support public safety operations requiring interoperability and coordination among first responders, state agencies and private-sector service providers. The STR supplements agency resources when operational requirements exceed existing communications capabilities or additional interoperable resources are needed. The reserve includes handheld digital radios, satellite voice and data capabilities such as Starlink, portable data networks, telephone systems, mobile communications towers and other deployable communications equipment. These resources are provided at no cost to requesting agencies and are returned to the OTIS Emergency Services team at the conclusion of the event. Over the past several years, utilization of the STR has demonstrated sustained demand for statewide deployable communications support across disasters, public safety operations, planned events and exercises.

During FY 2025-26, large-scale disaster deployments decreased compared to recent years, largely due to the absence of direct hurricane landfalls or other major statewide disasters, such as significant wildfires. As a result, overall STR deployment activity was lower than the previous fiscal year. Despite the comparatively less active disaster year, demand for STR capabilities remained significant across planned events, exercises, law enforcement operations, localized emergencies and severe weather incidents. This continued utilization demonstrates the ongoing need to maintain a ready and scalable statewide reserve capable of rapidly supporting agencies when communications requirements exceed locally available resources.

South Carolina Communications Unit (SCCOMU)

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Graniteville train wreck, both in 2005, highlighted South Carolina's need for a highly trained communications response capability to support public safety communications during disasters, major emergencies and significant events. The South Carolina Communications Unit (SCCOMU) is comprised of technically proficient communications personnel from across public safety disciplines who are familiar with both legacy and current communications technologies and are available to deploy as county and state mutual aid resources. SCCOMU members are evaluated for credentialing through the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, with OTIS coordinating SCCOMU deployments when the team is activated.

During the 2025 Table Rock Complex and Covington wildland fires, Strategic Technology Reserve resources and SCCOMU personnel were among the first requests for assistance made to support response operations. Across the two incidents, 15 communications technicians were deployed to support the complex communications requirements of the response.

In April 2026, members of SCCOMU were deployed to Allendale County after an electrical issue required the county's 911 center to be evacuated. Personnel and resources from Colleton, Berkeley and Dorchester counties, along with SLED, responded to support continuity of 911 and

public safety dispatch operations. Dorchester County deployed its mobile command vehicle to provide temporary workspace for dispatch personnel, while Berkeley County and SLED provided portable dispatch systems to restore radio dispatch capabilities. Colleton County and SLED also provided on-site technical assistance to support the temporary communications operation. The response demonstrated the value of the statewide communications unit model by rapidly bringing together personnel, equipment and technical capabilities from multiple jurisdictions to maintain critical public safety communications during an unplanned facility outage.

Palmetto Tactical Communications Network (PATCON)

To enhance South Carolina's public safety communications and interoperability capabilities and to add statewide communications redundancy, OTIS continued to operate and maintain the Palmetto Tactical Communications Network (PATCON), a statewide conventional interoperable repeater network supporting traditional 700/800 MHz radio communications. The PATCON network is comprised of 130 stand-alone transmitter sites that operate on both state and national interoperability frequencies, which provide additional interoperability, redundancy and capacity resources to the Palmetto 800 statewide network. PATCON interoperable repeaters are deployed in every county in the state. This system is free to use for all public safety agencies in South Carolina.

STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY CHALLENGES

Coverage Discrepancy

The original 800 MHz trunking agreement between the state of South Carolina and Motorola Solutions was designed to provide 95% statewide mobile, or in-vehicle, radio coverage. Today, more than 70% of the radios operating on the Palmetto 800 network are portable handheld radios. Because mobile radios generally operate at significantly higher transmit power than portable radios, fewer infrastructure sites are required to provide equivalent mobile coverage. As a result, portable radio coverage does not consistently achieve the same statewide coverage level available to mobile users.

As part of the current statewide contract, the state secured three additional tower sites to address identified coverage needs in areas of greatest concern. Construction of these three contract expansion sites is required to be completed no later than July 1, 2027. Previous statewide planning efforts also identified that achieving approximately 95% portable radio coverage would require a substantially greater infrastructure investment, including the addition of approximately 47 tower sites statewide.

System Diversity and Interoperability

South Carolina's public safety communications environment includes the statewide Palmetto 800 radio system as well as independently operated radio systems serving a number of counties and

public safety agencies. These systems support important local operational requirements; however, differences among radio system architectures can require additional coordination to support interoperability when personnel from different systems communicate during mutual-aid operations, regional incidents or statewide disasters.

Providing reliable interoperability between independent systems can require additional infrastructure, system-to-system interfaces, shared talk groups, gateways, operational procedures and coordination among system owners. Differences in system technology, configuration, coverage, governance and user practices can further complicate the ability to establish communications quickly and effectively across jurisdictional and system boundaries.

The statewide interoperability challenge is therefore broader than coverage alone. It also includes ensuring reliable communication between users operating on different public safety radio systems when incidents cross jurisdictional or system boundaries. Continued statewide planning should address both infrastructure coverage and the technical and operational connections necessary to support communications between Palmetto 800 and independently operated public safety radio systems. Strengthening these capabilities will improve mutual aid operations and help ensure that responders can communicate effectively regardless of the radio system normally used by their home agency.

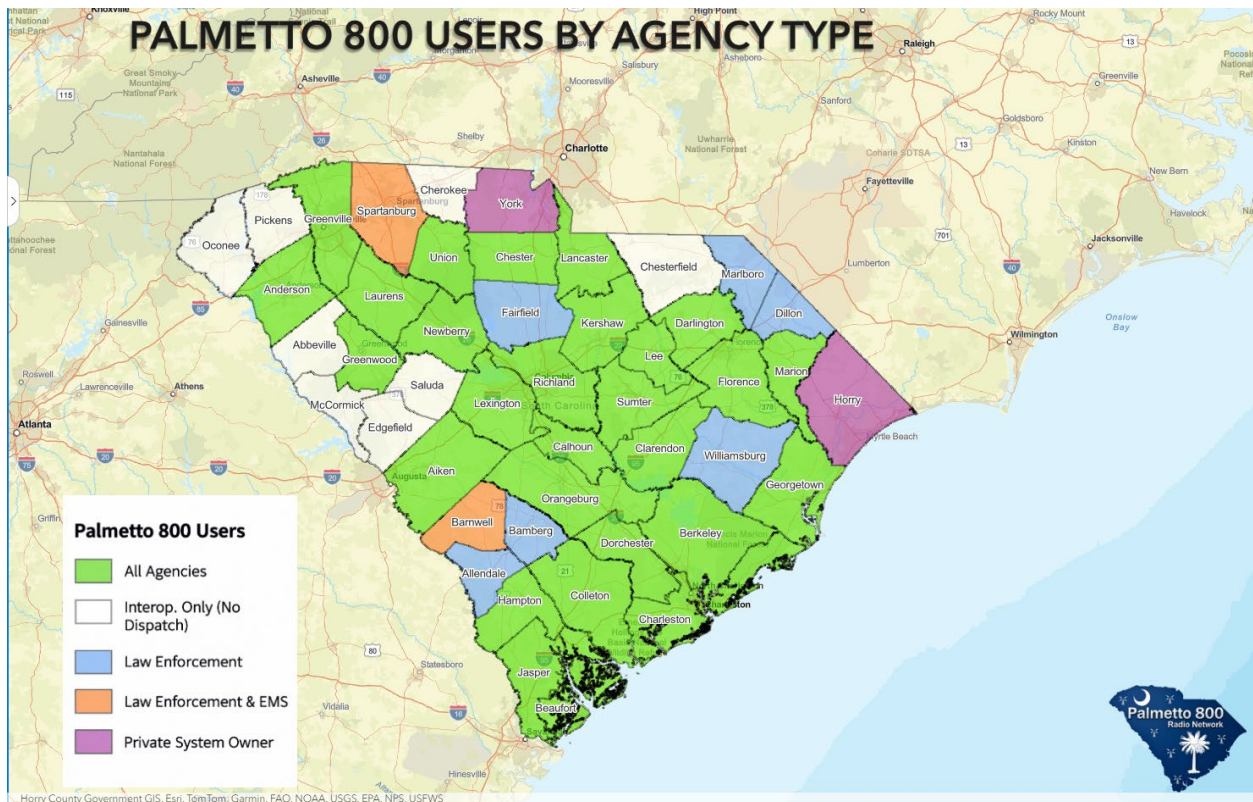
Continued State Investment

In the FY 2026-27 General Appropriations Act, additional funding was appropriated for First Responder Interoperability Program. This investment provides an opportunity to begin addressing several of the challenges identified through previous statewide planning efforts, including system coverage, user costs, infrastructure expansion and interoperability between Palmetto 800 and other public safety radio systems operating throughout South Carolina.

The additional funding represents an important step toward improving statewide communications resiliency and interoperability; however, continued coordination among state and local partners will be necessary to ensure future investments address both coverage needs and the ability of independent systems to operate together during emergencies and mutual aid operations.

PALMETTO 800 USER INTEGRATION REPORT

The Palmetto 800 Users map, which lists the system's users by agency type, is featured below.



Government Interoperability by State Agency

The following table lists the state, county and city government Palmetto 800 network radio users.

State Agency Interoperability		
<u>State Agency</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Adjutant General	The National Guard has Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability.	This agency has 236 radios but would like to have additional radios to support state emergencies.
Department of Administration	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Maintains and deploys the state's strategic cache of communications radio and response equipment for public safety agencies statewide.
The Citadel	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Clemson University	Fire and EMS are dispatched on the Palmetto 800 network.	Fire, EMS and police are on the university's new 800 MHz P25 Phase II system. Agencies have access to Palmetto 800 for interoperability. Cost, coverage and interoperability with neighboring counties were provided as the primary reason they are not fully Palmetto 800.
Coastal Carolina University	Limited interoperability.	Utilizes Horry County's private 800 system. They have interoperability with local and state law enforcement.
Department of Corrections (SCDC)	Limited interoperability.	Utilizes a local VHF system in prisons. SCDC has Palmetto 800 radios for other operations and interoperability.
Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Maintains its own low-band redundant system.
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and State Fire Marshal	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.

State Agency Interoperability		
<u>State Agency</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Forestry Commission	All law enforcement officers have Palmetto 800 network access.	Non-law-enforcement firefighting units still utilize the Forestry VHF radio system.
Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Public Health (DPH)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Environmental Services (DES)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Public Safety (S.C. Highway Patrol, State Transport Police, Bureau of Protective Services)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
S.C. House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	The agency maintains and utilizes its own VHF system for redundancy.
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Office of Mental Health	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	The agency maintains and utilizes its own VHF system for redundancy.
Ports Authority	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	The agency is interoperable with the state Palmetto 800 system, utilizing the Charleston County P25 system.

State Agency Interoperability		
<u>State Agency</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Revenue (DOR)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Enforcement officers only.
Santee Cooper	Limited interoperability, law enforcement only.	Santee Cooper has an independent radio system that is not compatible with the Palmetto 800 system. Santee Cooper law enforcement officers have 800 MHz radios for interoperability.
South Carolina State University	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	Enforcement officers only.
S.C. State Senate Sergeant-at-Arms	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Department of Transportation (DOT)	Senior staff, engineers and State Highway Emergency Program (SHEP) have Palmetto 800 network radios.	Dispatch, SHEP and engineers involved in supporting hurricane evacuations and recovery have 800 MHz radios. Road work crews still are utilizing the low-band system.
State Transport Police (STP) (see also S.C. Highway Patrol)	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
University of South Carolina	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
University of South Carolina - Upstate	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.

Local Government Interoperability by County

Local Government Interoperability by County		
County	800 MHz Interoperability	Comments
Abbeville	Limited interoperability.	Has Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability. Abbeville has opted to migrate from Palmetto 800 to a non-P25-compliant commercial system due to coverage and costs.
Aiken	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	During FY 2025-26, construction began on six new Palmetto 800 sites in Aiken County through a partnership between Aiken County and Motorola Solutions. Once construction is completed, the county will transition all county services to Palmetto 800.
Allendale	County sheriff and most police departments utilize Palmetto 800 network for interoperability.	County fire is on VHF; sheriff and most law enforcement agencies have 800 MHz radios for interoperability or primary use.
Anderson	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	County fire is dispatched on both Palmetto 800 and VHF, with personnel using each system as needed based on available coverage.
Bamberg	Law enforcement is fully Palmetto 800 network.	County fire and EMS have Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability only; both utilize VHF and UHF systems for primary dispatch.
Barnwell	Sheriff and EMS have Palmetto 800 network radios. Fire has some 800 MHz radios for interoperability.	Fire agencies utilize VHF for primary dispatch. EMS is provided by private contractor Ameripro, who have Palmetto 800 network radios.
Beaufort	Private 800 network that shares Palmetto 800 core.	Beaufort uses a private 800 MHz System connected to the Palmetto 800 P25 core for interoperability.
Berkeley	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Calhoun	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	All agencies and departments are dispatched on Palmetto 800. Some VHF radios are still in use for paging operations of volunteer firefighters.

Local Government Interoperability by County		
<u>County</u>	<u>800 MHz Interoperability</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Charleston	Private 800 network that shares Palmetto 800 core.	Charleston utilizes a private 800 MHz System connected to the Palmetto 800 P25 core for interoperability.
Cherokee	Limited interoperability.	Cherokee has opted to utilize a non-P25-compliant commercial system that was awarded a contract by the county. Sheriff's Department, Gaffney Police Department and some fire departments have 800 MHz radios.
Chester	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Chesterfield	Sheriff and police departments have Palmetto 800 network radios for interoperability.	Chesterfield continues to evaluate migration from its county DMR system to Palmetto 800. Temporary patches support law enforcement, fire and EMS dispatch, while Pageland fire and police are fully on the system. Coverage in the county is also strengthened through the new Cheraw Palmetto 800 site.
Clarendon	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Colleton	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Darlington	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network. County-owned VHF system in place for backup.
Dillon	Sheriff and police are utilizing the Palmetto 800 network.	Fire and EMS are not participating due to startup equipment cost and recurring participation cost.
Dorchester	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire uses VHF and Palmetto 800. All others are fully Palmetto 800.
Edgefield	Limited interoperability.	Edgefield sheriff, police and emergency management have 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Saluda has opted to utilize a non-P25-compliant commercial system. Coverage, equipment costs and recurring fees are given as the primary reason for not participating.

Local Government Interoperability by County		
County	800 MHz Interoperability	Comments
Fairfield	Sheriff and police are fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fire and EMS have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Equipment cost and coverage are given as the reason they are not participating fully. Fairfield has opted to utilize a non-P25-compliant commercial system for fire and EMS.
Florence	Private 800 network that shares Palmetto 800 core.	Florence utilizes a private 800 MHz system connected to the Palmetto 800 P25 core for interoperability.
Greenville	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Georgetown	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Greenwood	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Hampton	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Horry	All agencies are fully 800 MHz on the county's own private system.	Private county-owned 800 system. Horry County and Palmetto 800 have exchanged mutual aid IDs for interoperability.
Jasper	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Kershaw	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Lancaster	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Laurens	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network
Lee	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Lexington	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Marion	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Marlboro	Sheriff and police have Palmetto 800 network for interoperability.	EMS and fire have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Fire and EMS would like additional radios but are not fully participating due to costs.

Local Government Interoperability by County		
County	800 MHz Interoperability	Comments
McCormick	Limited interoperability.	McCormick County operates on its county-owned UHF system. The county maintains two Palmetto 800 radios at the 911 center for interoperability.
Newberry	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Oconee	Limited interoperability.	Law enforcement and EMS services have some 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Primary dispatch is a county-owned UHF system for all Oconee agencies.
Orangeburg	Fully Palmetto 800 network	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Pickens	Limited interoperability.	In FY 2023-24, Pickens opted to utilize a non-P25-compliant commercial system that was awarded a contract by the county. Sheriffs, police, EMS and a few fire departments have 800 MHz radios for interoperability. Others are not participating due to cost and limited coverage.
Richland	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Saluda	Limited interoperability.	Sheriff, 911 center, county EMD and Ridge Spring have active Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability. Saluda has opted to utilize a non-P25-compliant commercial system. Equipment costs and recurring fees are given as the primary reason for not participating.
Spartanburg	Sheriff, police and EMS fully Palmetto 800 network.	City and county fire do not participate in the Palmetto 800 MHz system. Some fire departments have Palmetto 800 radios for interoperability. Recurring costs are given as the primary reason for not participating.
Sumter	Fully Palmetto 800 network.	Fully Palmetto 800 network.
Union	Limited interoperability.	Sheriff's office, police and EMS have approximately 800 MHz radios for interoperability. The county would like to switch to the Palmetto 800 if funding becomes available.

Local Government Interoperability by County		
County	800 MHz Interoperability	Comments
Williamsburg	Fully Palmetto 800 network	All agencies operate on Palmetto 800. EMS receives tones on VHF. County, Kingstree and Hemingway fire departments would need additional funding to complete the TDMA migration for all personnel.
York	All agencies are fully 800 MHz on the county's own system.	Private County 800 System. York County and Palmetto 800 have exchanged mutual aid IDs for interoperability.

Note: All county 911 dispatch centers and county emergency operations centers (EOCs) across the state were equipped with 800 MHz radios early in the system's adoption phase through various federal grant programs. While these radios successfully enhanced interoperability between local government dispatch centers and state agencies, the equipment provided at that time does not support the upcoming P25 Phase II TDMA technology and will require replacements to remain compatible with the system's upgrade July 1, 2027.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions or additional information regarding the South Carolina Department of Administration's compliance efforts with Proviso 117.200 of the FY 2026-27 Appropriations Act, please contact Brooke Bailey (brooke.bailey@admin.sc.gov).

To learn about the [Palmetto 800 system](#), please visit Admin's online IT Shared Services catalog at sharedservices.admin.sc.gov.

APPENDIX A

In April 2021, the Palmetto 800 Advisory Committee decided to upgrade the Palmetto 800 system to P25 Phase II time division multiple access (TDMA) to ensure interoperability with neighboring systems, accommodate future growth due to limited spectrum availability and provide adequate channel capacity for new technologies. All radios on the system must be capable of TDMA operations before the target migration completion date of July 1, 2027. All Palmetto 800 system users were informed of the forthcoming technology change. Users are expected to take the required preparatory steps to ensure system compatibility upon implementation.

In preparation for the migration to TDMA, Admin's Emergency Services team completed the necessary upgrades to ensure that all 500 of the Palmetto 800 MHz radios in the state's cache are TDMA capable.