

NEWS RELEASE

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9-1-1 Board Approves Design Concept of Emergency Communications Center

NATCOM Project moves to the next stage...

Natchitoches, LA., February 28, 2012 — Natchitoches 9-1-1 plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. In this role, Natchitoches 9-1-1 connects the citizens, who are experiencing emergencies with those emergency service providers, who can assist them. As part of a constant effort to improve 9-1-1 services, the Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 Board of Commissioners moved one step closer today to its goal of co-locating its two 9-1-1 call taking and dispatch centers into one modern state-of-the-art facility. This project, referred to as “NATCOM”, (<http://www.natchitoches911.org/forms/NATCOM.pdf>) is centered around the construction and development of a modern state-of-the-art facility to house the emergency call taking and dispatching functions of the Natchitoches Police Department, the Natchitoches Sheriff’s Office, the Natchitoches Fire Department and the Natchitoches Hospital Emergency Ambulance Service. In addition, the proposed 7,000 sq. ft. facility will serve as home for the Natchitoches Parish Office of Homeland Security’s Emergency Operations Center, as well as the administrative offices and the addressing/mapping section of the Natchitoches Parish Communications District. Natchitoches Police Chief, and 9-1-1 Commissioner Micky Dove said that he was *“elated that we have gotten to this point. We are well on the way to creating a more cohesive and better coordinated public safety response system for the entire parish...”*

In order to ensure that the District is meeting the operational needs of each agency during the design and construction of this facility, the Board appointed an advisory group. which is made up of members of all of the effected agencies, who are well-versed on the technical, as well as operational needs of their agencies. This group visited six emergency communications centers across the state, which are comparable in size and function to Natchitoches. The data gathered was used during the needs assessment and spatial design phase of this project. *“The action by the board today will allow us to move forward with the development of more detailed construction documents, which will enable us to determine more accurate cost estimates,”* said Willis Carter, 9-1-1 Director.

Funding for the project will come from several sources. The 9-1-1 District has some retained revenue dedicated to the project, however more will be needed. The District has applied for several grants, as well as for Capital Outlay funding. When asked about the importance of the project, Sheriff, and 9-1-1 Commissioner Victor Jones said, *“We are hopeful that our grant requests will result in the additional funding needed to make this project a reality. The NATCOM project is the future of public safety communications here in Natchitoches Parish.”*

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About the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1)

Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 is committed to providing fast, efficient and effective access to emergency public safety services for all the citizens and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. Since 1988 the "District" has served in a pivotal role ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish by providing the support services, which connects the citizens experiencing emergencies with emergency services via the use of one, easy to remember and simple to use 3-digit number, 9-1-1. The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 District provides the equipment and systems necessary to receive 9-1-1 calls from the nearly 40,000 residents of the parish, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to the area. We are proud to serve as "Natchitoches Parish's Gateway to Public Safety Services".

Find out more at www.natchitoches911.org.

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