

**From:** Lyle, Tara L <[Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov](mailto:Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Totten, Mark L <[Mark.L.Totten@wv.gov](mailto:Mark.L.Totten@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Emergency granted to Homeland Security. If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Tara

**From:** Lyle, Tara L  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 03:36 PM  
**To:** Neal, David R <[David.R.Neal@wv.gov](mailto:David.R.Neal@wv.gov)>; Desmond, Tina M <[Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov](mailto:Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov)>; Sparks, Sandra E <[Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov](mailto:Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

David and Ellen,

Your emergency request is approved. Please follow the emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Handbook and send all supporting documents to this office within 30 days of this approval for processing.

Thanks,  
Tara Lyle, Buyer Supervisor  
WV Purchasing Division  
2019 Washington Street, East  
Charleston, WV 25305  
304-558-2544  
[www.wvpurchasing.gov](http://www.wvpurchasing.gov)

**From:** Neal, David R <[David.R.Neal@wv.gov](mailto:David.R.Neal@wv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:54 AM  
**To:** Lyle, Tara L <[Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov](mailto:Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov)>; Desmond, Tina M <[Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov](mailto:Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov)>; Sparks, Sandra E <[Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov](mailto:Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Good morning all,

Please see my reply to the questions;

1. The Gauley site(or any of the other sites) Microwave network would not function if the commercial power was interrupted, due to the lag time for the generator to start and transfer the load. The current charger/rectifier as well as the battery stack are unable to support the Microwave system at all, even during the generator transfer. The Microwave equipment operates on a continuous 48 volt DC battery power supply that is charged by an AC powered

device. Due to the age (over 10 years) of both the AC and DC battery equipment, and the increased demand from new technology, upgrades and additions, these units are failing.

2. To date, East River, Catherine's Knob, St. Mary's, Layland and now Gauley.
3. The current battery stacks are lead acid style batteries which have a life expectancy of less than 10 years. Nealy all our sites are 10 years or older. Additionally, the current charger/rectifier units are no longer produced or available.
4. Each site is unique due to the number of Microwave paths it supports. Each site has at least 2 microwave hops, most have more and still others have many, which are "hub" sites. As such, more capacity is necessary. Depending on the site requirements, up to nearly \$40,000. See attached quote for the Gauley (hub) site.
5. The development of a purchase contract is underway, at this point we have specs developed to the point that we can specify a base equipment purchase and add the required amp hour capacity as a site specific requirement. See the AMP HOUR requirement on the attachment. The timeline will need to be expedited due to the extra demand being placed on every site with the Microwave upgrade project as well as our part in the Broadband project under the CARES ACT.

With the age of the current equipment, the extra demand being placed on the current equipment by the mandated upgrades and Broadband requirements, site failures are anticipated in increasing numbers.

Please let me know if you need further information.

Thank you very much for your attention to this situation.

Respectfully,

David

**From:** Lyle, Tara L <[Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov](mailto:Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:09 AM

**To:** Neal, David R <[David.R.Neal@wv.gov](mailto:David.R.Neal@wv.gov)>; Desmond, Tina M <[Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov](mailto:Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov)>; Sparks, Sandra E <[Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov](mailto:Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Good morning all,

Frank had some additional questions for your emergency requests so he forwarded to me.

Please include the following information in your request –

1. What happens if this emergency is not processed? Briefly explain the repercussions.
2. Where are the locations of the failed battery backups?

3. How did the battery backups fail (brief description)?
4. What dollar value are you estimating for the repairs?
5. You state until a contract is developed, advertised and awarded – where are you in this process? Do you have a timeline for developing the specs, etc.?

If you have any questions, let me know.

Thanks,  
Tara

**From:** Whittaker, Frank M <[Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** Lyle, Tara L <[Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov](mailto:Tara.L.Lyle@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Thanks

**From:** Sheets, Mike - Purchasing <[William.M.Sheets@wv.gov](mailto:William.M.Sheets@wv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:41 AM  
**To:** Whittaker, Frank M <[Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:Frank.M.Whittaker@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Frank,

Would you follow up on this, please?

Thanks,  
Mike

**From:** Neal, David R <[David.R.Neal@wv.gov](mailto:David.R.Neal@wv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:39 AM  
**To:** Sheets, Mike - Purchasing <[William.M.Sheets@wv.gov](mailto:William.M.Sheets@wv.gov)>  
**Cc:** Desmond, Tina M <[Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov](mailto:Tina.M.Desmond@wv.gov)>; Sparks, Sandra E <[Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov](mailto:Sandra.E.Sparks@wv.gov)>  
**Subject:** Emergency purchase, battery backup system

Good morning Mr. Sheets,

As you may be aware, the WV SORN network has over 120 sites across the State, nearly all these sites have been operational for 10-15 years. As such, the power backup battery systems are considered ancient and have begun to fail as changes and upgrades are made to the radio and microwave components. We have had failures on 4 battery backup systems in 2 months. We spoke with Ms. Tina Desmond yesterday regarding the development of a contract to purchase this equipment, however, we are in need of yet another unit due to the failure on another site in the last few days.

Until a contract is developed, advertised and awarded, we will need guidance and/or approval to make emergency purchases, such as this, when they occur. I have attached a quote for your information.

In closing, any recommendation you may have is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

**David R. Neal**

SWIC

Statewide Interoperable Radio Network

WV Emergency Management Division

2403 Fairlawn Avenue

Dunbar, WV 25064

304-380-4723

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West Virginia  
**Statewide Interoperable  
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