

FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2013

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and the

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I. Introduction and Background

Pursuant to Section 6210 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act), the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) provides this Annual Report on its operations, activities, financial condition and accomplishments during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013.¹

The Act establishes FirstNet as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and authorizes FirstNet to take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network based on a single, national network architecture. FirstNet is responsible for, at a minimum, ensuring nationwide standards for use and access of the network; issuing open, transparent and competitive requests for proposals to build, operate and maintain the network; encouraging that such proposals leverage, to the maximum extent economically desirable, existing commercial wireless infrastructure to speed network deployment; and managing and overseeing the implementation and execution of contracts or agreements with non-Federal entities to build, operate, and maintain the network.

The Act also assigns specific responsibilities to NTIA, including implementation of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP), which will support the efforts of state, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective way to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the network.

II. Standing Up FirstNet As An Organization

A. FirstNet Board Membership

The Act requires that FirstNet be led by a fifteen-person Board, with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget serving as permanent Board members. Congress charged the Secretary of Commerce with appointing twelve non-permanent members. By law, the term of all non-permanent FirstNet Board members is three years. However, the terms of the inaugural non-permanent FirstNet Board members are staggered, with four members serving three years, four serving two years, and four members serving one year.²

The inaugural non-permanent Board members were appointed on August 20, 2012. Each member of the Board brings considerable public safety, network, technology, and/or finance expertise. Board members also have a broad range of experience in working with state, regional, territorial, tribal, and local jurisdictions. They include (noting the date their current term expires):

¹ Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Public Law 112–96, 126 Stat. 156 (2012).

² Non-permanent FirstNet Board membership is limited to two consecutive full three-year terms.

| Name | Background | Term Expires |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Barry Boniface | Telecommunications executive and private equity investor | August 2016 |
| Tim Bryan | Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative | August 2015 |
| Charles “Chuck” Dowd | Assistant Chief, New York City Police Department | August 2014 |
| F. Craig Farrill | Wireless telecommunications executive | August 2015 |
| Paul Fitzgerald | Sheriff, Story County, Iowa | August 2014 |
| Samuel “Sam” Ginn Chairman | Telecommunications executive (retired) | August 2014 |
| Jeffrey Johnson | Fire Chief (retired); former Chair, State Interoperability Council, State of Oregon; Chief Executive Officer, Western Fire Chiefs Association | August 2016 |
| Kevin McGinnis | Chief/Chief Executive Officer, North East Mobile Health Services | August 2015 |
| Ed Reynolds | Telecommunications executive (retired) | August 2014 |
| Susan Swenson Vice Chairman | Telecommunications/technology executive | August 2016 |
| Teri Takai | Government information technology expert; former CIO, States of Michigan and California | August 2016 |
| Wellington Webb | Former Mayor of Denver, Colorado | August 2015 |

The original Board included Mr. William Keever, however he decided to step down at the end of his term in August, 2013. On August 14, 2013, Secretary Pritzker announced the reappointment of Ms. Sue Swenson, Mr. Jeff Johnson, and Ms. Terri Takai to additional three year terms respectively.

While NTIA’s outreach efforts included numerous meetings and conversations with interested groups and individuals concerning Board membership issues, NTIA’s formal recruitment efforts included a May 7, 2012, recruitment announcement, which it published in the *Federal Register*. NTIA also published a May 22, 2012, release of a FirstNet Board Recruitment Prospectus, which it posted on its website.³ Both documents provided interested parties with additional background on FirstNet, statutory requirements for Board member eligibility, and the process by which candidates could be submitted for consideration.

³ The May 7, 2012, Recruitment Announcement and the May 22, 2012 Prospectus can be found, respectively, at: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/fr_firstnet_bod_notice_120510.pdf and <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2012/firstnet-board-directors-recruitment-prospectus>.

NTIA also conducted due diligence on the Board member candidates. Based on the information it obtained, NTIA recommended a slate of candidates to the Acting Secretary of Commerce that met the mix of expertise and representation required by the Act.

B. Senior Management

In April 2013, the FirstNet Board selected Bill D'Agostino, Jr. as the General Manager of FirstNet. The General Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of FirstNet and reports directly to the Board. The remainder of the senior management team is responsible for planning and directing the development of FirstNet under the General Manager. These responsibilities include outreach and consultation, technical designs, finances, administrative tasks, recruitment of personnel and legal matters. The hiring of Mr. D'Agostino and his senior management team allowed the Board to resume their traditional Board member roles. In addition to Mr. D'Agostino senior management is currently comprised of:

- Deputy General Manager – TJ Kennedy
- General Counsel – Stuart Kupinsky
- Chief Financial Officer – Randolph Lyon
- Chief Administrative Officer – Frank Freeman

The process of hiring a Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief of Staff, and Chief Technology Officer remain ongoing and FirstNet hopes to have those positions filled at the earliest possible time.

C. Public Safety Advisory Committee

The Act requires FirstNet to create a standing public safety advisory committee to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. The FirstNet Board directed Chairman Ginn to establish a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairs. The PSAC was created on February 20, 2013.

The PSAC is a 41 member committee that draws expertise from all aspects of public safety. The PSAC is a direct link to public safety for FirstNet on all matters. FirstNet senior management is in regular communication with the PSAC leadership and actively seeks the PSAC's input on important issues.

On September 11, 2013, all members of the PSAC met with five FirstNet Board members and senior management. This meeting was organized to generate input from the PSAC members on the status of FirstNet planning and to gain advice on public safety network matters that involve shared intergovernmental responsibilities. PSAC's executive committee met in March 2013, June 2013, and August 2013, in addition to holding phone conversations with the PSAC chair and executive committee at other times during the year.

III. Consultation and Outreach

A. Consultation with State, Local, Tribal and Public Safety Entities

FirstNet is dedicated to the development of a sustainable outreach process consistent with the statutory requirements. In this regard, FirstNet's goal is to ensure that the public safety community, public safety communications experts, State CIOs, governor-appointed state points of contact (SPOCs), and all additional relevant individuals and groups become part of the consultation process and provide input into their state plan.

On October 25, 2013, the FirstNet Board announced that it is establishing ten regional offices that will mirror the ten FEMA regions. FirstNet will be hiring outreach staff that will be permanently based in each of these ten regions. The regional staff will provide a direct link from the local communities in which they serve to the FirstNet organization. FirstNet is looking to develop relationships and insights at the state, county, city, and tribal levels which in turn will create a compelling value proposition through which states and localities/local jurisdictions will chose FirstNet services.

NTIA's SLIGP provides states with the opportunity to educate, consult, and learn what FirstNet is, and help prepare for FirstNet's formal consultation process to develop what FirstNet will provide in terms of services and tools for public safety in each state.

While the regional teams are being put in place, FirstNet is also finalizing the formal consultation process that will take place between FirstNet and state, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions. This process will identify, plan and implement the most efficient and effective way to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other assets associated with the network, resulting in an individualized plan for each state.

Recognizing the challenges that agencies spanning multiple states and sovereign nations pose, FirstNet has been conducting outreach and education specifically targeted at tribal and federal entities. During the six regional outreach workshops in May and June of 2013, FirstNet staff discussed tribal working relationships within each state individually, and facilitated breakout sessions to gather information related to public safety priorities and challenges in Indian Country. Board member Kevin McGinnis was appointed as tribal liaison in June 2013.

FirstNet began building relationships with regional and national tribal associations focused on public safety, telecommunications, and broad planning and coordination to learn how to engage leaders within the 566 federally recognized tribes. Additionally, FirstNet looked for models of successful technology projects by tribes with large land areas. These relationships and conversations continue in FY 2014. FirstNet has engaged in formal strategic planning with key leaders and professionals in Indian Country, and continues to pass that information on to states to effectively engage tribes in all levels of this build-out process. While official consultation will occur through the states, relationships with tribal telephone companies, emergency management, and tribal telecommunications projects will continue to grow and their input will be very important as the network matures.

B. Public Events and Presentations

The Board members and management team have conducted an impressive amount of outreach with the available resources. FirstNet Board members, executives, and staff have spoken at 94 conferences, meetings, trade shows and other events since the start of FY 2013. These speaking engagements have reached a broad cross-section of stakeholder groups and associations, including those representing the public safety community, Federal, state, and local governments and tribal leaders, and industry.

FirstNet has been invited to speak at the majority of the major public safety and communication groups' annual conferences, and staff have attended those conferences as well as engaged with organizations including the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major City Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Governors Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers, SAFECOM, the Telecommunications Industry Association and the Competitive Carriers Association. These interactions provided FirstNet an important opportunity for two-way interaction with the public safety community. FirstNet was able to educate audiences about the network, the FirstNet organization, and its plan, while these groups explained their unique obligations, constraints, and network requirements.

IV. Technical Work and Network Planning

A. Public and Vendor Input on Technical Components of the Network

FirstNet has received considerable input from public safety and industry on the technical aspects of the national public safety broadband network. This input has primarily come in three forms: outreach, public safety/industry collaboration, and FirstNet's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) and Request for Information (RFI) process.

After the inaugural FirstNet Board meeting, the Board asked NTIA to issue an NOI to solicit comment from interested parties on the network architecture and public safety applications concepts presented during the meeting. On October 1, 2012, NTIA issued this NOI, which was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4, 2012. The NOI had an initial comment deadline of November 1, 2012, which was subsequently extended to November 9, 2012, to accommodate those impacted by Hurricane Sandy.⁴ NTIA received 133 comments from a wide range of stakeholders, including states, local and tribal governments, federal entities, national associations, consultants, vendors, commercial carriers, satellite providers, equipment manufacturers, and utilities. NTIA summarized the comments and briefed FirstNet Board members on their major themes, giving FirstNet valuable insight into a variety of topic areas, including network design and other technical components of the network.

⁴ The NOI can be found at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2012/notice-inquiry-firstnet-conceptual-network-architecture>; the comments received in response are posted at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2012/comments-nationwide-interoperable-public-safety-broadband-network-noi>.

Over the past year FirstNet has held numerous meetings with state and local stakeholders to understand their wants and needs for the FirstNet network. This process will continue as FirstNet further develops its technical plans and begins to implement those plans. FirstNet is also working very closely with public safety Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grantees in the same manner.

Public safety communities, along with government and industry partners, have been working very closely together over the past several years to define launch requirements and expand thinking on topics relevant to FirstNet. These inputs have been collected, and are being analyzed and considered for the technical design of the network.

Finally, FirstNet released 12 RFIs this year, and the response from industry has been significant, with over 300 responses to these RFIs received. These topics can be broken down into two areas. First, Radio Access Network (RAN) RFIs which included: network partnering and RAN provision, antenna systems, microwave backhaul equipment, mobile network solutions, and satellites. Secondly, Core RFIs that covered: enhanced packet core (EPC), transmission - transport, data center, network management center/operations management center (NMC/OMC), and network service platforms. FirstNet is currently engaged in the analysis of these responses to gauge how best to leverage industry technology and services required to deploy the FirstNet network.

B. FirstNet and Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR)

The PSCR Program resides within the Department of Commerce laboratories in Boulder, Colorado, and is a joint effort between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/Office of Law Enforcement Standards and NTIA/Institute for Telecommunication Sciences.

The PSCR Program provides research, development, testing, and evaluation to foster nationwide public safety communications interoperability. PSCR has also taken a lead role in public safety broadband wireless communications development and testing. Drawing on critical requirements provided by public safety practitioners, the PSCR Program provides leadership to wireline and wireless standards committees developing standards for voice, data, image, and video communications.

The PSCR Program performs research on behalf of its sponsors — the Department of Homeland Security/Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (DHS/OIC), DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), NIST, and NTIA/FirstNet — to advance public safety communications interoperability. The PSCR Program is (on behalf of FirstNet) participating in international standards development bodies, such as the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) and the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions to advance public safety requirements such as Push-To-Talk, Proximity Services, and Group Communications. Public safety was identified as the highest priority for 3GPP Release 12, which was beneficial for public safety entities and FirstNet.

V. NTIA Implementation of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program

SLIGP is a formula-based, matching grant program administered by NTIA. Between July and September 2013, NTIA awarded grants totaling \$116 million to 54 states and territories. The program is designed to assist regional, state, local, and tribal government entities as they plan for a nationwide public safety broadband network. Grants will support planning, consultation, education and outreach activities, as well as fund efforts to collect data on existing infrastructure and equipment that could be used by FirstNet in building a wireless public safety broadband network.

Figure 1. SLIGP Federal Funds Awarded by State

| State | Federal Funds Awarded | State | Federal Funds Awarded |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alabama | \$2,044,932 | Montana | \$1,816,415 |
| Alaska | \$2,005,869 | Nebraska | \$1,510,750 |
| American Samoa | \$502,930 | Nevada | \$1,972,666 |
| Arizona | \$2,911,147 | New Hampshire | \$879,887 |
| Arkansas | \$1,595,711 | New Jersey | \$2,711,928 |
| California | \$5,676,786 | New Mexico | \$1,899,423 |
| Colorado | \$2,500,989 | New York | \$4,867,212 |
| Connecticut | \$1,406,257 | North Carolina | \$3,203,088 |
| Delaware | \$724,613 | North Dakota | \$1,167,975 |
| District of Columbia | \$636,722 | Ohio | \$3,638,690 |
| Florida | \$4,916,040 | Oklahoma | \$1,924,814 |
| Georgia | \$3,306,657 | Oregon | \$2,148,448 |
| Guam | \$529,300 | Pennsylvania | \$3,955,098 |
| Hawaii | \$872,075 | Puerto Rico | \$1,432,624 |
| Idaho | \$1,490,242 | Rhode Island | \$755,863 |
| Illinois | \$4,067,403 | South Carolina | \$1,853,522 |
| Indiana | \$2,354,504 | South Dakota | \$1,238,103 |
| Iowa | \$1,656,258 | Tennessee | \$2,361,340 |
| Kansas | \$1,800,790 | Texas | \$5,859,404 |
| Kentucky | \$1,852,548 | U.S. Virgin Islands | \$515,628 |
| Maine | \$1,045,904 | Utah | \$1,782,235 |
| Maryland | \$1,985,361 | Vermont | \$710,941 |
| Massachusetts | \$2,162,120 | Virginia | \$2,756,850 |
| Michigan | \$3,347,017 | Washington | \$2,642,591 |
| Minnesota | \$2,389,660 | West Virginia | \$1,121,498 |
| Mississippi | \$1,570,320 | Wisconsin | \$2,294,933 |
| Missouri | \$2,477,551 | Wyoming | \$1,350,593 |
| | | Total Awarded as of 9/30 | \$116,202,225 |

VI. Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Safety Projects

As of September 30, 2013, FirstNet had successfully reached spectrum manager lease agreements (SMLAs) with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (LA-RICS) and the State of New Mexico, two of the seven BTOP grant recipients which had received funding for public safety broadband projects administered by NTIA. FirstNet will leverage these projects to as a means to test various technologies and platforms prior to the development of the nationwide system. These projects will provide FirstNet with a substantial opportunity to gather key information to help it design the nationwide FirstNet network. At the close of FY 2013, FirstNet was continuing to negotiate on spectrum lease agreements with four of the five remaining public safety BTOP projects (Adams County Communications Center Inc., the Executive Office of the State of Mississippi, Motorola Solutions, Inc. (the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications Systems Authority (BayRICS)), and the New Jersey Department of the Treasury), as well as with the State of Texas, whose public safety broadband project in Harris County was not funded through the BTOP program. FirstNet's negotiations with the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, the remaining BTOP project, were terminated by mutual consent in August.

At the December 2013 FirstNet Board meeting an announcement was made that Adams County and New Jersey Department of the Treasury had signed SMLAs with FirstNet. The Mississippi and BayRICS projects could not reach agreements with FirstNet. All negotiations were terminated by the November 15, 2013 deadline.

From the start, FirstNet took the approach that its negotiation process and the SMLA framework must preserve the states' flexibility in making their decisions on FirstNet's eventual deployment plan for their state. The SMLA negotiations began in February 2013, when the Board authorized Board member Sue Swenson to negotiate with the BTOP public safety projects for a period of 90 days. The negotiation periods were extended multiple times by mutual agreement of the parties. FirstNet's negotiations included numerous group discussions among representatives of all the projects on common issues and concerns, as well as lease terms and conditions. There also were numerous one-on-one negotiating sessions, to address considerations specific to individual BTOP projects and their respective "key learnings conditions."

VII. FirstNet-Related Federal Communications Commission Activities

On August 2, 2013, NTIA, on behalf of FirstNet, filed comments in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) PS Docket No. 12-94.⁵ FirstNet urged the FCC to lift its freeze on authorizations for equipment using the radio frequencies licensed to FirstNet. On October 28, 2013, the FCC released a Report and Order lifting the freeze and, as FirstNet had also urged, consolidating technical and operational rules applicable to FirstNet. The FCC's resumption of equipment authorizations actions enables the development of innovative solutions necessary for a cutting-edge public safety broadband network. It also permits jurisdictions deploying early in FirstNet spectrum to purchase the devices they will need. These early adopters will share

⁵ In the matter of Implementing Public Safety Broadband Provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band; Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz bands.

valuable lessons learned, which FirstNet can leverage to make its rollout more efficient and effective.

NTIA has participated in cross-border dialogue with neighboring nations. With Mexico, these talks are expected eventually to result in a new protocol governing the 700 MHz band where FirstNet's radio frequency allocation is located.⁶ Talks with Canada aim to deepen and enrich the telecommunications aspects of the Presidential "Beyond the Border Initiative."⁷

VIII. FirstNet Board Meetings

The FirstNet Board held five public, in-person meetings and four telephonic meetings in FY 2013.⁸ The statute creating FirstNet requires a minimum of one meeting per quarter. This was met and exceeded substantially. The dates for the board meetings were:

- December 11, 2012
- February 12, 2013
- March 18, 2013 (phone)
- April 23, 2013
- May 8, 2013 (phone)
- June 4, 2013
- June 27, 2013 (phone)
- August 13, 2013
- September 23, 2013 (phone)

IX. Financial Condition of FirstNet

FY 2013 was FirstNet's first year of operations.⁹ All activities associated with establishing FirstNet in FY 2012, including the recruitment of Board members and costs incidental to the inaugural meeting of the Board on September 25, 2012, were recognized as NTIA costs to establish the organization and were reported in the "First Responder Network Authority, Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2012." FirstNet operations commenced with the adoption of the organization's Bylaws by the Board on September 25, 2012.

⁶ In 2012, Mexico adopted a plan for use of the 700 MHz band (the "APT Plan") which differs from the United States' band plan. In 2013, Mexico adopted sweeping constitutional reforms, including of telecommunications. NTIA participates in the activities of a US delegation headed by the Department of State. The delegation will seek to negotiate a new protocol for the 700 MHz band with Mexico necessitated by the changes in Mexico, as well as by the allocation of an additional 5 MHz of broadband spectrum to FirstNet under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The success of these negotiations is vital to public safety communications at the critical southwest border.

⁷ NTIA participates in the Canadian-United State Communications Interoperability Working Group, part of the "Beyond the Border" Initiative. These discussions facilitate information sharing, cooperative trials and problem solving which can enhance state-of-the art communications interoperability between the two nations. Canada has adopted a band plan and an allocation for public safety broadband use in 700 MHz similar to that of the US.

⁸ The complete text of each Resolution from each board meeting can be found at:
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/firstnet>.

⁹ This report includes all the financial results for FirstNet, but not other NTIA activity funded through the PSTF.

In FY 2013, all FirstNet financial transactions occurred within the Public Safety Trust Fund (PSTF) established in Section 6413 of the Act. NTIA continued to exercise its borrowing authority under section 6207 of the Act, and borrowed funds were deposited into the PSTF to pay authorized NTIA and FirstNet expenses. No funds were deposited in the Network Construction Fund established in Section 6206 of the Act.

In December 2012, the Board appointed certain Board members to serve as acting officers of FirstNet to manage start-up operations with an initial authorization to spend up to \$10 million to develop a business plan and support outreach activities and consultation with state, tribal, Federal, and local entities. In February 2013, the Board authorized the acting officers to hire up to 10 FirstNet employees. In March, the Board authorized an additional \$1 million for outreach and user advocacy efforts. In April, the Board appointed a General Manager to direct day-to-day operations of the organization. On June 4, 2013, the Board approved a budget of \$50 million for FY 2013. FirstNet obligated approximately \$21.6 million in FY 2013.

Table 1 contains summary unaudited financial data. FirstNet management believes that the financial data presented is accurate. In accordance with section 6209 of the Act, FirstNet's FY 2013 financial results are undergoing an audit by the public accounting firm of KPMG LLP. Upon completion of the auditor's work, the results of the audit will be provided to Congress, the President, and the FirstNet Board.

Balance Sheet and Net Position

FirstNet ended the year with assets of \$8.8 million including approximately \$7.8 million to pay its obligated but unpaid commitments at year-end which consisted of approximately \$4.1 million in accounts payable and accrued payroll liabilities and \$3.8 million in outstanding undelivered orders. The net position reflects the excess of financing resources made available to FirstNet over total expenses incurred.

Statement of Net Cost

The statement of Net Cost presents FirstNet's results of operations. FirstNet generated no revenues in FY 2013 and incurred expenses of approximately \$16.9 million.

Statement of Budgetary Resources

In FY 2013, OMB apportioned for obligation the \$50 million approved by the Board as the operating budget for FY 2013. NTIA borrowed on behalf of FirstNet \$21.6M to cover FirstNet's obligations for the year.

| Table 1. Financial Highlights (\$ in thousands) | | | |
|--|--|-----------|---------------|
| Summary Balance Sheet | | | |
| Fund Balance with Treasury | | \$ | 7,821 |
| Other assets | | | 1,021 |
| Total assets | | | 8,842 |
| Accounts Payable | | | 3,932 |
| Other liabilities | | | 216 |
| Total liabilities | | | 4,148 |
| Net position | | | 4,695 |
| Total liabilities and net position | | \$ | 8,842 |
| Summary Statement of Net Cost | | | |
| Operating results | | | |
| | Gross Cost | | 16,869 |
| | Less: Earned Revenue | | - |
| | Net cost of operations | \$ | 16,869 |
| Summary Statement of Budgetary Resources | | | |
| | Transfers-Current Year Authority | | 21,556 |
| | Obligations incurred | | 21,556 |
| | Unobligated balance, end of year: | | - |
| | Total unobligated balance, end of year | | - |
| | Total status of Budgetary Resources | | 21,556 |
| | Change in obligated balance | | |
| | Obligations incurred | | 21,556 |
| | Outlays | | 13,736 |
| | Unpaid obligations, end of year | | 7,821 |

X. Special Review Committee

At the April 23, 2013, FirstNet Board meeting, Board member Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald presented a resolution raising various concerns, including whether:

- The FirstNet Board engaged in open and transparent decision making;
- FirstNet's Board members have equal access to records;
- FirstNet's national public safety broadband network plan has been developed without input from all Board members and the PSAC;
- There are undisclosed conflicts of interest within the FirstNet Board; and
- Procurement activities, including the hiring of consultants, were consistent with government procurement rules.

After discussion, the Board voted to table the motion and Chairman Sam Ginn immediately requested that the Board undertake a review of the issues raised. On May 8, 2013, the FirstNet Board convened a special Board meeting by telephone and voted unanimously to establish a Special Review Committee (SRC) in response to Board member Fitzgerald's concerns. The SRC was chaired by Board Member Wellington Webb.

The SRC launched a two-stage review of the issues raised. Phase one of the review would examine concerns regarding: (1) openness and transparency in decision making by the FirstNet Board; (2) Board members' access to records; and (3) the development of a plan for FirstNet's national public safety broadband network. Phase two of the review would focus on the ethics concerns and FirstNet's procurement activities.

Over the following months the SRC examined the phase one complaints raised by Sheriff Fitzgerald and on September 20, 2013, presented its finding on phase one to the Board. It concluded that:

- The FirstNet Board engaged in open and transparent decision making;
- FirstNet did not withhold information from Board members; and
- FirstNet is still developing its network plan with full consultation and outreach.

On October 25, 2013, Chairman Ginn announced that due to the complicated nature of the issues raised in phase two, he has asked the Department of Commerce Inspector General to review the outstanding matters. This review is now underway.