

# MEDIA RELEASE

---



COUNTY OF ERIE  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 23, 2019

**CONTACT:**

Melissa J. Dixon  
mdixon@eriecountypa.gov  
814-451-7440

## Erie County Next Generation Public Safety Radio System launches Sept. 24

ERIE, Pa. – The Erie County Department of Public Safety will launch the county’s long-awaited \$26.5 million Next Generation Public Safety Radio System on Tuesday, Sept. 24, starting with law enforcement.

The City of Erie Police Department will be the first to transition to the new system Tuesday at 7 a.m., followed by Millcreek Township Police Department on Wednesday, Sept. 25, and all other Erie County police departments Thursday, Sept. 26.

Law enforcement agreed to initiate the launch because fire and medical personnel use applications that are not applicable to law enforcement. The county plans to begin transitioning EMS/Fire the week of Oct. 7.

“The Next Generation Public Safety Radio System is the second largest capital investment in Public Safety for the protection of our first responders, the citizens and visitors of Erie County,” Erie County Department of Public Safety Director John Grappy said. “The goal of this project is to migrate the existing county radio system(s) and users to a common platform, which provides the most technologically advanced communications system to meet the needs of Erie County in the most cost-efficient way. It also enables interoperability among all users of the system. EF Johnson has provided Erie County with technology that will meet our current and future needs for the next 20 years.”

The upgraded Viking VP6000 portable radios have been thoroughly tested and are fully operational, and user training and dispatch-console training took place in the weeks leading up to deployment.

“Equipping our first responders with the most efficient communication technology not only increases the speed and accuracy of emergency responses, but it empowers us with a new level of protection for our citizens,” Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper said. “I’m thrilled seeing this project actualize after many years of development and expect to see many positive results taking place in Erie County’s public safety as a result. I’m so grateful to all who’ve been involved in making this transition a reality.”

###