



**FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY**

Thursday, May 22, 2025 • 1:30 p.m.

LA-RICS Headquarters
2525 Corporate Pl., Suite 200,
Large Conference Room
Monterey Park, CA 91754

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Brian Hoffman , County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
David Sum , County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Maria Morales , County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Josh Nelson , California Contract Cities Association

ALTERNATES FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Helen Jo , County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Michael Browne , Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Anthony Zavala , City of Covina Police Department
Cardell Hurt , City of Inglewood Police Department
Brandon Coatney , At-Large Seat #4 (City of La Verne Fire Department)

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Scott Edson , LA-RICS Executive Director
Beatriz Cojulun , LA-RICS Committee Secretary

ABSENT MEMBERS:
Scott Wiese , LA County Police Chiefs Association



NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brian Hoffman called the Regular Meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Committee Secretary, Beatriz Cojulun took roll and acknowledged a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)

A. May 29, 2024 – Special Meeting Minutes

Chair Hoffman asked the Committee for approval of the Special Meeting Minutes on May 29, 2024. With the absence of any objections, Chair Hoffman called for a motion to approve.

Alternate Committee Member Cardell Hurt motioned first, seconded by Committee Member Joshua Nelson.

In Favor 8: Hoffman, Sum, Morales, Nelson, Jo, Zavala, Hurt, and Coatney.

MOTION APPROVED.

Alternate Finance Committee Member Michael Browne joined the meeting after Chair Hoffman asked the Committee for their approval of the Minutes.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

VI. REPORTS – (B)

B. Executive Summary – Scott Edson

Executive Director Scott Edson stated for the past year and a half now, the LA-RICS network has been online and performed perfectly. Executive Director Edson also stated there were no unplanned outages affecting service delivery,



even though the Authority has experienced fires, windstorms, significant weather and copper theft. Executive Director Edson expressed the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system has been phenomenal for the Authority's subscribers, and those affiliates who have used the system during emergencies.

Executive Director Edson shared that with the 2026 World Cup approaching, it is crucial for the region to quickly come together to connect various P25 Systems for interoperability. Executive Director Edson further shared that a comprehensive communication operations plan, and training, would be necessary to ensure that first responders and all relevant federal and state agencies would be able to effectively communicate and manage the scheduled events. Executive Director Edson mentioned the 2028 Summer Olympics would have an even greater impact on first responder agencies, as events will be held simultaneously in the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange for a two-week period.

Executive Director Edson said there was an urgent need for all stakeholders to recognize the critical importance of radio communications and interoperability, and to address any needs as swiftly as possible. Executive Director Edson also said he would continue to champion this position.

At the May 1, 2025, Board Meeting, Executive Director Edson reported that in late April, the Authority was surprised to hear the City of Los Angeles (City) may have repurposed one million dollars from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) 2024 for the City communication needs, funds that were approved by the UASI for regional interoperable communications. Executive Director Edson feels that if true, this would delay interoperable communication between LA-RICS and the three (3) City Systems. Executive Director Edson reported the Authority asked the Grants Unit at the City Mayor's Office for clarification over a month ago and received a response just this week, stating they had nothing to report at this time.

Executive Director Edson transitioned to items before the committee today, containing three (3) action items, Agenda Item C, a new Subscriber User Agreement for agencies with more than twenty thousand (20,000) devices, which currently only impacts the County of Los Angeles (County) department users. Executive Director Edson went on to share the next was Agenda Item D, Proposed Draft Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026, totaling over fifty-eight million dollars (\$58,000,000) in expenses and funding sources for a balanced budget, assuming approval of the new Subscriber User Agreement, just mentioned. Executive Director Edson in conclusion said Agenda Item E was for the approval of the Finance Committee 2025 meeting schedule.

This concluded Agenda Item B. There was no further discussion.



VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS – NONE

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (C – E)

C. RECOMMEND APPROVAL FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FINALIZE AND EXECUTE A REVISED VERSION OF THE LA-RICS USER AGREEMENTS FOR SUBSCRIBER ENTITIES WITH 20,000+ RADIOS ON THE LAND MOBILE RADIO (LMR) SYSTEM

Executive Director Edson stated this item is seeking a recommendation from this Committee to the LA-RICS Board of Directors to authorize Executive Director to finalize and execute a revised version of the LA-RICS' User Agreements with Subscriber entities with 20,000+ Radios on the LMR System. Executive Director Edson further stated the Revised User Agreement is only applicable to those subscriber entities with an overall twenty thousand (20,000) or more radios on the LMR System. Executive Director Edson reported that currently the only LA-RICS Subscriber that fits this definition is the County of Los Angeles users of the LMR System.

Executive Director Edson reported the Revised User Agreement, which is substantially similar in form to the enclosed, remains largely unchanged from the Agreement approved by the LA-RICS Board last year, except with the cost, which has increased the monthly cost for these users from twenty dollars (\$20) per device to sixty-five dollars (\$65) and eighty-five dollars (\$85) per device.

Executive Director Edson requested the Committee recommend approval by the LA-RICS Board for Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director to finalize and execute the Revised Version of the Subscriber and User Agreement. Executive Director Edson went on to say this agreement applies to radios, consoles, consolettes, modems, and other equipment (collectively "Radios") transmitting countywide, which utilize the LMR System on Countywide basis, either directly or indirectly, such as smartphones with Push-to-Talk (PTT).

Executive Director Edson stated the item is also seeking delegated authority to the Executive Director to continue to revise, finalize and issue Amendments to the User Agreement, as needed, provided any structural changes and amendments to the User Agreement are approved as to form by Counsel.

Executive Director Edson shared the purpose of this recommended action is to request the Committee's recommendation to the LA-RICS Board to delegate authority to the Executive Director for the new subscriber agreements for all the County users, this does not impact any other existing user agreements.



Executive Director Edson shared the fiscal impact is that it would provide the revenue required to fully offset the LA-RICS Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs on an annual basis.

Executive Director Edson went on to share that staff have included revenue aligning with approval of this recommended action in the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget that takes such Subscriber Monthly Fees into consideration effective July 1, 2025.

Executive Director Edson expressed as those that have attended these meetings over the last few years know, the County has been a big partner and was paying twenty dollars (\$20) per device as the rest of the Subscribers were paying, however, the Authority had a deficit to pay for O&M costs in FY 2024-2025 and the County CEOs Office funded that deficit. Executive Director Edson further expressed the County offered to continue funding the Authority's deficit but in a different way. Therefore, instead the CEOs Office would like to distribute the deficit costs to other County departments, so the District Attorney's Office, County Fire (LACoFD), and the Sheriff's Department (LASD) and other County Departments would ultimately pay more to absorb the funding deficit, with no additional cost to the other agency users. Executive Director Edson said his understanding was that CEO would work with County departments to supplement their budgets appropriately to ensure appropriate funding to pay the new higher rate.

Finance Alternate Member Helen Jo asked if the revision to the Agreement was revised from the last version from 2024, to which, Executive Director Edson said it was. Finance Alternate Member Jo said the cost remains the same, but the subscription cost has gone up, which, Executive Director Edson confirmed. Finance Alternate Member Jo stated there is a large difference in the cost between the twenty dollars (\$20) and the eighty-five dollars (\$85) rate for LACoFD and wondered if there was a formula that was used for the eighty-five dollars (\$85) versus the sixty-five dollars (\$65) rate. Executive Director Edson went on to clarify the difference between LASD rate of \$65 per radio and LACoFD rate of eighty-five dollars (\$85) per radio was attributed to LACoFD use of the narrowband mobile data network that was an additional twenty dollars (\$20) dollars. Executive Director Edson explained the sixty-five dollars (\$65) to eighty-five dollars (\$85) totals came from taking the total gap required to fund the annual operations and maintenance costs, with the variance of twenty dollars (\$20) between the two rates attributed to those who use the narrowband mobile data network

Finance Alternate Member Jo asked for the exact calculation as to how those numbers came about. Alternate Finance Member Jo understood Departments were told there might be a potential increase but were not notified of the actual increase and this was somewhat at the last minute. Alternate Finance Member Jo



expressed that for the current FY2025-26 the Departments would pay the full cost up front; however, the CEO would be supplementing, “reimbursing”, each Department for the additional cost.

Chair Hoffman said the CEO would have to work with each Department to identify a funding source, e.g. LACoFD is self-funding by property tax, and the CEO would work with staff to determine exactly how that would be funded. Chair Hoffman mentioned there was an additional phase of supplemental changes where details could be worked out.

Finance Alternate Member Joe shared that she did not feel as though funding would be guaranteed, since it would be from the General Fund, which Chair Hoffman confirmed she was correct.

Finance Member Commander David Sum wanted to know if LASD would have to make a request for funding, although there was no guarantee if it would be added. Chair Hoffman could not provide a guarantee without the easiest concurrence but would be able to provide some context for the County’s fiscal constraints, Assembly Bill (AB) 218, a \$4 billion dollar settlement, reduced Property Tax due to wildfires, labor, and with all the pressure on the County, the CEO will not be able to provide funding. Finance Chair Hoffman reiterated what Executive Director Edson said, that CEO is asking the Departments to pay that cost instead of CEO; it would still come from the County at the end of the day.

Finance Member Sum mentioned that LASD is in preparation for the upcoming budget. Executive Director Edson shared that on July 1st the increase would take effect. Finance Chair Hoffman stated that each Department was notified to prepare for additional costs, which at that time last year the amount was not known. Finance Chair Hoffman suggested to both LASD and LACoFD to handle this in the supplemental commitment phase to identify a funding source.

Finance Alternate Member Jo said that in the worst-case scenario, LACoFD understood the situation with the County fiscal shortfalls, upcoming litigation and the cost associated with it, but did not understand the CEO would have each department take on the cost increase from their own budget to make up the difference, with LACoFD being almost six million dollars (\$6,000,000). Therefore, given that fact Finance Alternate Member Jo wondered if there would be a possibility of phasing it in, or the Department pays only half of the initial cost and that funding comes from CEO. Finance Chair Hoffman expressed there could be discussions, and that it was an ongoing cost to use departmental savings at the end of the year on the balance, at least for LACoFD, to offset for FY2025-26, while ongoing funding could still be identified. Alternate Finance Member Jo wondered if it would be part of the discussion regarding supplemental changes and wondered



if the Analyst would be reaching out to departments, to which Chair Hoffman stated he would ask Analyst to reach out to departments. Executive Director Edson said the more users, there would be more revenue, and cost decreases, therefore, things could change.

Alternate Finance Member Jo wondered what the current deficit was, to which Chair Hoffman stated the budgeted deficit was ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the previous year FY2024-25, currently, there is no deficit.

Finance Member Sum asked what the impact would be on the cost if an agency leaves or significantly decreases the amount of radios on the system, to which Executive Director Edson said that on a yearly basis, everything will need to be reviewed, but there was no anticipation of any County Departments opting out. Executive Director Edson went on to say that in discussions with the CEO and public safety agencies, LA-RICS anticipates that all agencies within the County would be subscribers, which would result in a cost decrease. Executive Director Edson said there is a need for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to be on the network but needs a large amount of equipment for its users, which is why they are not on the system yet, however once they do come on their subscription revenue would reduce the cost to the other County agencies.

Finance Member Nelson wondered what would happen if the topic was tabled today. Executive Director Edson said the Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors would task him with making a decision and would most likely go into discussions with the Authority's biggest customer, the County, and try to find a resolution.

Chair Hoffman asked the Committee if there were any questions. There were no questions or corrections, therefore, he asked for a motion to approve recommending adoption of the Draft Revised Funding Plan.

Alternate Committee Member Michael Browne arrived at the presentation of Agenda Item C, in time to provide his vote on the item.

Alternate Finance Member Brandon Coatney motioned first, seconded by Alternate Finance Member Hurt.

In Favor 7: Hoffman, Morales, Nelson, Browne, Zavala, Hurt, and Coatney.

Opposed 2: Sum and Jo

MOTION APPROVED.



D. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED FISCAL-YEAR 2025-26 OPERATING BUDGET

Executive Director Edson requested the Committee review the attached LA-RICS Draft Proposed Operating Budget for FY2025-26; it was also requested the Committee recommend approval by the LA-RICS Board of Directors of the Operating Budget of fifty-eight million sixty thousand dollars (\$58,060,000) that would allow for the payment of expenditures incurred effective July 1, 2025, and continue funding the Authority’s operations. Executive Director Edson stated the draft budget was in accordance with the cost factors identified in the Adopted Revised Funding Plan with detailed expenditures contained therein with funding sources from grants, subscriber revenue, and the AT&T Business Agreements, resulting in a balanced budget for Committee recommendation of approval.

Executive Director Edson asked the Committee if there were any questions regarding budget details in his presentation. There were no questions for Executive Director Edson.

Chair Hoffman asked if there were any questions or comments, then called for a motion to approve. Alternate Finance Member Hurt motioned first, seconded by Alternate Finance Member Maria Morales.

In Favor 8: Hoffman, Sum, Morales, Nelson, Browne, Zavala, Hurt, and Coatney.

Opposed 1: Jo

MOTION APPROVED.

E. 2025 SCHEDULE FOR LA-RICS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Director Edson presented Agenda Item E that provided the dates for the calendar year 2025 Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting (4th Thursday of the month)
June 26, 2025
July 24, 2025
August 28, 2025
September 25, 2025
October 23, 2025
November 20, 2025



Regular Meeting (4th Thursday of the month)
(3 rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving Holiday)
December 18, 2025
(3 rd Thursday due to Christmas Holiday)

All Regular Meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m., on the 4th Thursday of each month, at LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.

Chair Hoffman called for a motion to approve. Finance Member Nelson motioned first, seconded by Alternate Finance Member Hurt.

Ayes 9: Hoffman, Jo, Sum, Morales, Nelson, Browne, Zavala, Hurt, and Coatney.

MOTION APPROVED.

- IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**
- X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE**
- XI. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE**
- XII. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in person at LA-RICS, 2525 Corporate Place, Monterey Park, CA, 91754.

With the absence of any objections, Chair Hoffman moved for a motion to adjourn. Finance Member David Sum motioned to adjourn.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.