

4.3 **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

The Texas Forest Service will accept applications for grant assistance under the HB 2604 Program for the following radio equipment:

- Base Stations
- Repeaters
- Mobile Radios (New Trucks Only)
- Other Support Equipment (Towers, Cabling, Antennas, etc.)

Grants are not available for portable radios or pagers.

The following minimum standards apply:

All radios must be VHF High Band, capable of operating within the 150 Mhz – 160 Mhz frequency range.

All radios must have Narrow Band capability with 12.5 channel spacing.

All radios must be part of a county-wide radio network which operates in the VHF Hi-band frequency range of 150 Mhz – 160 Mhz.

Mobile radios must be installed in new firefighting vehicles only. Mobile radios may not be installed in firefighter personal vehicles.

All mobile radios must be capable of transmitting and receiving on all of the state VHF interoperable frequencies and labeled according to the recommendations of the Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan (TSICP), a companion document to the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). These documents can be found at: http://txrc.region49.org/SCIP_documents.html

The state of Texas holds licenses for these frequencies and individual departments can use them provided a simple Memorandum of Understanding is on file with the Texas Department of Public Safety (this can be via a consolidated MOU between the county [as long as the FD/VFD is named in that consolidated MOU] and the Texas DPS or via individual FD/VFDs and the DPS – A blank MOU can be found in the TSICP mentioned above and lists how to complete it and where to submit).

The wideband interoperable frequencies will be valid until 01/01/2013 at which time the FCC requires conversion to narrowband frequencies. On that date, the wideband interoperable frequencies will no longer be recognized by the DPS or the state of Texas as interoperable frequencies and the narrowband interoperable frequencies will replace them.

The narrowband interoperable frequencies are valid at this time, as long as an MOU exists that covers that agency and is on file with the Texas DPS. The new narrowband frequencies are required by FCC and state mandates by 01/01/2013. The wideband interoperable frequencies will no longer be recognized by the state as interoperable frequencies after that time.

**Mobile and Portable Configuration
VHF Wideband Interoperability Channels**

Valid Until January 1, 2013

Label	Receive	Transmit	Station Class	CTCSS TX/RX	Use
TXLAW1	154.950	154.950	FBT / MO	CSQ Only	Tactical Channel
TXLAW2 (Mobile)	155.370	154.950	FBT / MO	127.3 TX Only	Calling Channel (Mobile & Portable)
TXLAW3	155.475	155.475	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel
TXFIRE1	154.280	154.280	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel
TXFIRE2	154.265	154.265	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel
TXFIRE3	154.295	154.295	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel
TXMED1	155.340	155.340	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel
TXAIR2	151.385	151.385	FBT / MO	127.3	Tactical Channel

**Mobile and Portable Configuration
VHF **Narrowband** Interoperability Channels (12.5 kHz)**

In affect now but REQUIRED by January 1, 2013

Label	Receive	Transmit	Station Class	CTCSS TX/RX	P25 NAC Hex/Dec Required 01/01/2015	Use
VCALL10	155.7525	155.7525	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Calling Channel
VTAC11	151.1375	151.1375	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VTAC12	154.4525	154.4525	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VTAC13	158.7375	158.7375	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VTAC14	159.4725	159.4725	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE21	154.2800	154.2800	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE22	154.2650	154.2650	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE23	154.2950	154.2950	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE24	154.2725	154.2725	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE25	154.2875	154.2875	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VFIRE26	154.3025	154.3025	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VMED28	155.3400	155.3400	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel (for ground-to-air use)
VMED29	155.3475	155.3475	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VLAW31	155.4750	155.4750	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel
VLAW32	155.4825	155.4825	FBT / MO	156.7	\$293 / 659	Tactical Channel