



STATEHOUSE REPORT

Published by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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September 13, 2024

Issue Spotlight: MARCS Update

At the CCAO Summer Symposium, our members received an update on NG 9-1-1 and the MARCS radio program from the state staff responsible for overseeing and implementing those programs. We want to provide a brief update on the [MARCS program](#) and action items for our members who could not attend the symposium session. Additionally, [we will host a webinar on these programs](#) on September 23 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Action Items:

- If you utilize a MARCS or a MARCS-compatible radio, it must have P25 or Link Layer Authentication capabilities by July 1, 2025.
- If you purchased radios after 2019, they will likely already have this capability.
- As of August 13, 58,661 of the 155,308 total radios on the system had been authenticated.
- Contact your local EMS staff to see if your radios are authenticated.

The Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) is Ohio's wireless, digital communication network for first responders. It provides fiber optic and microwave technology that enables State, local, and federal agencies to communicate instantly during public safety events. MARCS is recognized nationally as a premier P25 public safety two-way radio communication system.

While not all counties or local jurisdictions utilize MARCS, the system currently serves more than 3,300 public safety agencies with more than 155,000 radios and more than 1,800 unit computers. The system uses 320 towers across the state, with ten additional towers currently under construction. It is important to note that if you are operating on the MARCS system, you must ensure your radios are capable of P25 or Link Layer Authentication. The state MARCS steering committee requires all radios to be authenticated by July 1, 2025.

If you purchased a radio from a vendor after 2019, it is likely capable of this authentication, and it is unnecessary to purchase a new one. According to the state, as of August 13, 58,661 of the 155,308 radios on the system had been authenticated. CCAO can help you determine if your radios can be authenticated through our Ohio Department of Administrative Services contacts.

If you have questions about this information, please get in touch with Managing Director of Policy Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or 614-220-7977.

OBM releases monthly financial report, updates SFY 2025 estimates

Earlier this week, the Office of Budget and Management [released its monthly financial report](#) covering August. The report includes an update of the agency's projections for SFY 2025.

The update estimates that the state General Revenue Fund will generate \$1.73 billion (or 3.9%) less than OBM projected when the budget was enacted. About half of the downward adjustment is due to the agency projecting that that sales and use tax and personal income tax revenue will be \$321.4 million and \$681.3 million less than initially anticipated.

The August revenue figures showed a positive variance in state GRF tax receipts. Overall, state sales and use taxes came in below estimate due to non-auto sales and use taxation falling \$5.0 million (0.5%) short of projections. However, modest overperformances by the other two main tax revenue sources for the state, the personal income tax and CAT tax, made up for the shortfall in non-auto sales revenue.

Department of Agriculture drought webinar available online

Yesterday, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Brian Baldrige and his staff hosted a webinar with CCAO to educate members about the ongoing drought affecting the state, particularly those counties in Southeast Ohio. The webinar provided an overview of the drought conditions and explained resources made available through the state and federal government to farmers and business owners in the affected areas.

You can find the webinar and slide deck on [CCAO's webinars page](#). If you have any questions about the drought or the resources available, please get in touch with Policy Analyst James Kennedy at jkennedy@ccao.org or 614-220-7981