

# AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

## IN GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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### 2020 Winner for Creative Solution to a Common Challenge



#### SCOTT COUNTY AND ROCK ISLAND COUNTY QUAD-CITY P25 RADIO PROJECT

Scott County, on the border of Eastern Iowa, and Rock Island County, on the border of Western Illinois—separated by the Mississippi River—comprise an area commonly known as the Quad Cities. These two communities came together in 2018 to solve a problem that affected them both: aging emergency radio infrastructure.

Public safety agencies in Scott County and Rock Island County needed to upgrade their communications infrastructure because it didn't meet modern federal interoperability standards. The communities' systems weren't capable of communicating with one another, within the Quad Cities or with other agencies in other states. The infrastructure was also aging and obsolete, potentially jeopardizing the critical life-saving role of 911 and emergency communications.

The solution, called the Quad-City P25 Radio Project, consists of a new digital emergency radio system that shares lines and frequencies and allows for communication throughout the Quad City area. The project includes funding for the infrastructure itself—including radio towers, transmitting equipment, switches and servers, and the software and computers located at local dispatch centers—as well as funding for new radios for first responders. These two counties, each in a different state, have ensured that first responder activity can easily move across the state line from one county into the other.

Another innovative aspect of the Quad-City P25 Radio Project concerns its ownership and funding. While RACOM Technologies, the vendor of the new system, will run and operate it for the two counties. Scott County and Rock Island County will own the emergency communications system. This arrangement provides a number of benefits, including an ownership approach that is specifically tailored for the two communities. It will also provide long-term stability.

The installation of this project is in process and is expected to be completed in 2021.