



# Saint Louis County

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**Ross Litman**  
Sheriff

## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

February 11, 2013

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### **Transition to ARMER radio system to be recognized by Board**

The planning, engineering and logistical work required to meet the FCC-mandated shift to narrowband radio frequencies was no small task, particularly in a county as big as St. Louis County. The dedicated team of St. Louis County Emergency Communications, plus others from the Sheriff's Office managed to not only complete this massive undertaking on time, but to finish \$800,000 – nearly 10 percent – under budget.

The individuals involved in the transition to the digital Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response, better known as ARMER, will be recognized Tuesday, February 12, during the St. Louis County Board meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m. at Hermantown City Hall, 5105 Maple Grove Road. Among those being honored are Bruce Hegrenes, Technical Supervisor; and Electronic System Technicians Tom Semmelroth, Vince Regan, Rob O'Connor, Les Flemming and John Zehowski. Also being recognized are Scott Camps, Emergency Services Manager, and Dewey Johnson, Assistant Center Supervisor.

This team planned and implemented the transition of all law enforcement, fire and emergency medical radios in St. Louis, Lake and Carlton Counties, plus public works radios in St. Louis County to the new ARMER system. This involved purchasing and distributing 3,900 portable radios plus purchasing and installing 500 mobile radios in vehicles. An additional 18 digital dispatch consoles were engineered and installed. Approximately 100 training sessions were conducted throughout the region for about 1,500 people to make sure all users were comfortable with the new technology.

"This project was a huge undertaking, and this group surpassed what we asked them to do," said Sheriff Ross Litman. "They worked nights, weekends, whatever it took to make sure everyone – from large law enforcement departments to small volunteer rescue organizations had the tools and

training needed to respond when help is needed.”

The total cost of the ARMER transition in St. Louis County was \$7.16 million. Of this, \$487,000 was paid in sales tax on the new equipment. Many agencies in Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Cloud, Rochester and other metro counties were given an exemption from this sales tax. St. Louis County is still lobbying to receive a similar exemption.

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