

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 07/23)

Fiscal Year 2025-26	Business Unit Number 5225	Department California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Hyperion Budget Request Name 5225-065-BCP-2025-GB		Relevant Program or Subprogram 4500039 – Information Technology

Budget Request Title

Public Safety Radio Replacement

Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) requests \$19.8 million General Fund in 2025-26 and ongoing to support CDCR's public safety radio operability and fund an ongoing replacement cycle to maintain the Department's public safety radio communications equipment.

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP) <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer Bill Language <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Bill Language <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed	
Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.</i>	Department CIO Edmond Blagdon	Date 1/10/2025

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. Project Approval Document:

Approval Date: Total Project Cost:

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By Al Castillo	Date 1/10/2025	Reviewed By Chelsea Standish	Date 1/10/2025
Department Director Edmond Blagdon	Date 1/10/2025	Agency Secretary Jeff Macomber	Date 1/10/2025

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst Allison Hewitt	Date submitted to the Legislature 1/10/2025
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A. Problem Statement

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) public safety radio communications equipment has exceeded its lifecycle and is no longer upgradeable. Most of the radio equipment is not supported by the manufacturer and replacement parts are no longer available. This has resulted in the reduction of useable radios, creating a serious safety risk for all divisions that depend on radios to perform their required duties.

In December 2023, the manufacturer notified the State of California they had a depleted inventory of parts to support the existing radio equipment. California Office of Emergency Services' (CalOES) Public Safety Communications (PSC), the oversight agency tasked with radio system maintenance and repair, informed CDCR they are receiving broken radios from CDCR divisions that are no longer repairable. These irreparable radios are then removed from the system to prevent potential future health and safety issues, as they are deemed unreliable and may not operate properly. This has reduced the Department's radio inventory and its ability to adhere to radio safety standards set forth by the Federal Government.

In 2018-19, CDCR was approved one-time funding of \$32.9 million to replace the Radio System Network and subscriber equipment. Although this one-time funding enabled CDCR to replace radio assets, much of the radio equipment CDCR purchased with these funds has already surpassed its useful life and is subject to the operability issues noted above. The 2018-19 BCP did not include resources to address the ongoing needs associated with maintaining CDCR's public safety radio equipment over the longer-term.

B. Justification

CDCR's radio equipment is comprised of 30 radio systems and approximately 15,500 radios (i.e. hand-held portables, emergency vehicle mobiles, remote stations, consolettes, and base stations). Other technologies, such as pagers, satellite phones, and cellular devices, do not meet communication requirements and interoperability for routine, critical, or emergency response. Interoperability allows CDCR to connect to disparate radio systems from other law enforcement agencies. Currently, 98 percent of the Department's radio equipment is past its lifecycle and is operating beyond the recommended operational cycle by multiple years. The issue of diminished functioning radio equipment is further compounded by a shortage of available replacement parts. CDCR's radio equipment continues to age and is increasing the risk for communication failures statewide.

An ongoing replacement schedule will more closely align with the manufacturer's lifecycle requirements, is more cost effective than fixing outdated or expired equipment, and minimizes the Department's liability and operational risks.

This proposal requests funding for an eight-year replacement cycle, which will enable CDCR to replace approximately 12.5 percent of its radio equipment inventory each year. The project will prioritize radio replacement by age, criticality, and risk of failure.

CDCR Divisions Operational Requirements

Reliable radio communication is critical for CDCR's daily operations and emergency incidents. Radios can also provide a vital link to other law enforcement agencies during mutual aid or multi-jurisdictional incidents, in real time.

Division Of Adult Institutions (DAI)

- Correctional staff play a crucial role in our institutions, providing oversight of incarcerated individuals, enforcing rules and regulations, and maintaining an orderly environment. Radio communication is critical to institution safety, and radio shortages are creating circumstances where officers may be required to pair up due to the limited radio availability. This leaves gaps in supervisory coverage and can create an unsafe environment, potentially leaving institution staff and the incarcerated population more vulnerable. Radio devices are used daily as a secure and immediate

means of communications, allowing for crucial coordination during critical situations. Radio capabilities ensure officer and staff safety through real-time notifications, the ability to quickly request backup when necessary, and allow communications to more than one individual at the same time. If more radios continue to break down, operations will be negatively impacted and may result in a limitation of incarcerated individuals' movements to restricted areas to ensure overall safety.

- CDCR fire houses responded to approximately 8,600 calls in the 2023 calendar year. This number has increased annually in the past five years and continues to grow. Firefighters rely heavily on radio communication to coordinate fire response and mutual aid efforts and ensure public safety. Emergencies occur daily both within the institutions and in the communities. As California faces unprecedented perils from wildfires, the need for reliable and efficient communication among responders has never been more urgent. Wildfires spread rapidly, creating dangerous and unpredictable conditions that require immediate and coordinated responses. Without dependable radio communications, firefighters are at a significant disadvantage, compromising their ability to control fires, evacuate residents, save lives and most importantly maintain the safety of the staff and incarcerated fire service.
- Response Teams (K-9, Investigative Services Unit, and Escapes) require radios with capabilities for mutual assistance with other agencies, and during multi-jurisdictional incidents. Radios that are no longer upgradeable hinders coordinated responses within the institution and while working with local agencies during critical or emergency incidents.

Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO)

DAPO supervises parolees within the state. Due to their unique line of work, Parole Agents operate alone and rely solely on portable radio communications for backup assistance and as a public safety tool. The radio devices are used daily and provide secure and immediate means of communication for operable and interoperable use with other law enforcement agencies, allowing crucial coordination during critical situations, ensuring Parole Agents safety through real-time notifications, the ability to quickly request backup when necessary, and broadcast communications to more than one individual at the same time. The lack of functioning radios, including those that do not operate on other agency systems, or in areas without radio coverage, can hinder the ability of Parole Agents to do their jobs and respond to mutual aid requests in the community. Newer radios leverage Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology employed by other agencies, such as CalOES PSC with the California Radio Interoperable System.

Office of Correctional Safety (OCS) / Crisis Response Teams (CRT)

OCS uses radios to communicate within their units (Fugitive Apprehension Team and Special Services Unit) and with DAPO and DAI during critical field and institutional operations. In addition, radios are used to communicate with outside law enforcement agencies when working with, or responding to, emergency incidents.

While in the field, OCS can encounter instances where it is unable to use CDCR radios to communicate with other law enforcement agencies (dispatch, field, air, K-9, and investigative units) because the state issued radio equipment is past its lifecycle, cannot be upgraded, and does not have compatible encryption. During mutual aid assistance and critical incidents, OCS has had to borrow radios from other law enforcement agencies.

CRTs use radios within California institutions daily while assisting agencies with mutual aid. Additionally, radios are essential tools when responding to situations deemed high risk and/or requiring a higher level of training and expertise, for example a hostage rescue. During critical deployments, CRT has had to rely on other types of communication methods such as cellular phones, text messaging, smartphone applications, and borrowing other agency radios due to a shortage of working radio equipment.

Camps (Custody Officers and Incarcerated Firefighters)

CDCR custody staff are required by Interagency Agreement 6400 between CDCR and CalFire and internal operating procedure 724 to maintain radio contact with CalFire while assigned to a fire incident. They are required to transport incarcerated individuals from a fire line assignment, due to disciplinary, medical, or other issues. Most fires occur in remote, hard-to-access mountainous areas where cell phones do not work and the only mode of communication with CalFire is radio. While on a fire assignment, CDCR is required to follow the strike team to the fire line location, then move to a nearby safe location and be ready to respond to any issues with incarcerated individuals. The rate and direction of fire spread is often unpredictable, and radio communion is important to notify fire teams if the fire has turned and evacuation is necessary. Radio contact is the only method of communication between CDCR and CalFire and is a life-saving necessity for Cal-Fire, incarcerated firefighters, and CDCR staff.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

This proposal promotes the Department's vision of enhanced public safety through secure and reliable radio communications in the following areas:

- Custody and staff safety
- Securing incarceration of individuals
- Effective parole supervision
- Rehabilitative strategies to successfully reintegrate individuals

This proposal will help to support continual alignment with the legislative mandate for digital standards for radio communications interoperability (Gov. Code Section 8592, et seq. – Public Safety Communications Act of 2002) for statewide interoperability between federal, state, and local public safety agencies to ensure support of the current and future needs of the Department. Therefore, any equipment that doesn't meet government code or is past its lifecycle will be removed by eliminating unreliable equipment in all CDCR divisions.

The funding will also support costs charged by partner agencies, required by state statutes, to assist with the implementation of the radio system engineering, installation, and maintenance. Partner agencies include: CalOES PSC, which charges for programming and radio surveys; Federal Communications Commission licensing; installation and removal of radio equipment, and project management for CalOES PSC staff; and CDT, which charges for the review and approval of radio equipment contracts and procurement.

These resources will allow continued collaboration with CalOES PSC in planning a "system of systems" for interoperability between all California public safety providers. CDCR's ability to ensure communications are available during routine, critical, or emergency response is essential to the Department's operational directive, as it provides a crucial lifeline for CDCR personnel and the incarcerated community.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

Supporting ongoing radio operability will support the Department in maintaining cost-efficient and reliable radio communications that meet operational needs, can leverage evolving technologies, and support secure communications. It will also maintain CDCR's compliance with state and federal mandates. These outcomes are critical to the safety of the custody officers and staff during routine, critical, or emergency response.

E. Implementation Plan

If approved, CDCR will begin preparation for project implementation scheduled to start in 2025-26.

F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

N/A

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

BCP Title: Public Safety Radio Replacement
BR Name: 5225-065-BCP-2025-GB
Budget Request Summary
Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY25 Current Year	FY25 Budget Year	FY25 BY+1	FY25 BY+2	FY25 BY+3	FY25 BY+4
539X - Other	0	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	\$0	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY25 Current Year	FY25 Budget Year	FY25 BY+1	FY25 BY+2	FY25 BY+3	FY25 BY+4
Total Budget Request	\$0	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY25 Current Year	FY25 Budget Year	FY25 BY+1	FY25 BY+2	FY25 BY+3	FY25 BY+4
State Operations - 0001 - General Fund	0	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829
Total State Operations Expenditures	\$0	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829
Total All Funds	\$0	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY25 Current Year	FY25 Budget Year	FY25 BY+1	FY25 BY+2	FY25 BY+3	FY25 BY+4
4500039 - Information Technology	0	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829	19,829
Total All Programs	\$0	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829	\$19,829