Station Alerting System Proposal

Issue

We have had a station alerting system for several years that was pieced together as a short-term fix. This system is responsible for turning on a light in the bunk room when tones go off along with alerting everyone in the station through speakers that we have had a call. It interfaces with radio communications and when dispatch sets off our tones it trips the system. This system has become inoperable. The company that installed it has stated that they are unable to fix it without putting more money into it. With changes we have made in our response and staffing it does not meet our needs going forward. If we are going to put money into a system, we want to spend that money on something that is inline with what we need.

Proposal

Purchase a new station alerting system and have it installed by an outside vendor.

Approval is being sought for the purchase of new alerting system for the Yorktown Fire Department. This system would have speakers throughout the station including offices, day room, bunk room, exterior areas, and the bays. Lights will kick on alerting that there is a call in the bunk room, day room and in the bays. The light in the bays will alert firefighters that may be running equipment such as saws and do not hear the tones due to this. Along with this, the new system will allow for a night mode. This will allow firefighters to turn off all radio traffic while at the station staffing it except for our tones and radio traffic. Currently they must listen to all scanning traffic for all agencies throughout the night which disturbs their ability to sleep.

Rationale

Up to this point, the alerting system we have had has been "home grown" and partially met our needs. With the increased call volume, members staying on station and necessity to get the trucks out the door as quickly as possible it is necessary to replace this system. The current system is inoperable, and we could potentially miss calls or delay responses when we have firefighters on station. We are going to have to spend money and replace equipment on the insufficient system and we feel it is a much better utilization of the money to put it into a system that will better meet our needs and add capabilities we currently would not have.

Cost

Total cost **$28,000**
This can be accomplished from our current budget and would include:
Removal of old system
All items described in above proposal including hardware, wiring, and setup.

Summary

This system will assist our department in getting apparatus out the door in a timely fashion and provide capabilities that we currently do not have. Similar systems we have reviewed are upwards of 50,000 not including installation. We have found a company that is able to meet our needs for our station but no have excessive items that drive up the cost.