

1 Q. Please provide a detailed explanation of the benefits of a trunked mobile
2 radio system as opposed to a conventional radio system, providing specific
3 examples of expected efficiencies and an estimate of the cost impact of
4 those efficiencies.

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6 A. As noted in the Business Case for the VHF mobile radio, filed with the 2004
7 Capital Budget Application (Section G, Tab 4, Section 4.2 page 8 the first
8 paragraph) the primary benefits of a trunked mobile radio system are
9 additional features including privacy, individual calling, remote unit
10 registration, ease of expansion as well as the ability to provide data capability
11 to mobile personnel and isolated sites accessible only by VHF radio. The
12 existing Multi-Departmental Mobile Radio System (MDMRS) has similarities
13 to a trunk radio technology and the design of the new system was meant to
14 replace, as a minimum, the existing functionality. The additional features
15 noted above will however be added. As well, the distributed design topology
16 of the proposed system and the known channel efficiencies of a trunked
17 radio system in a multi-channel environment both lend to increased overall
18 efficiency. Estimates of the cost impact of these examples have not been
19 performed.