

March 2 , 2023

Senate Bill 127

Testimony from Chancy Smith

Dickinson County Emergency Management Director

Dickinson County

852 sq mi

18,459. Pop (2021)

12 Fire Dept's

2 Police Dept's

1 Sheriff's Dept's

2 EMS stations

All Bordering Counties have 800mh Radios

Clay, Geary, Morris, Marion, Saline, Ottawa

Dickinson County 911 Dispatch, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), can no longer page out fires in the SW quarter of the County due to Saline County Dist. 1 Fire switching to 800mh

All most all grass fires have out of county (mutual aid) due to manpower shortages everywhere. Dickinson County firefighters cannot talk to assisting counties because of radio differences.

Law enforcement activities like car chases and man hunts are very difficult with communications because all surrounding counties and the KHP operate on the 800 mh radio. This can become a life safety issue quickly when it comes to police activities.

After the narrow banding of the current vhf radio system in the county communication have been worse than normal.