



CITY OF MONTPELIER
Office of the Mayor
830 Washington St. Montpelier, ID 83254

February 26, 2026

To the Honorable Mike Simpson,

As Mayor of the City of Montpelier, I want to express my full support for the Montpelier Police Department's request to upgrade its radio communication equipment. This investment is not simply a matter of modernization—it is a matter of public safety, operational readiness, and our responsibility to ensure that our officers have the tools they need to protect our community.

Our police officers regularly work alongside neighboring departments, county agencies, state partners, and emergency responders. Effective communication is the backbone of that cooperation. Unfortunately, our current radio system has reached a point where its limitations hinder the ability of our officers to reliably coordinate during critical incidents, multi-agency responses, and day-to-day operations. In rural communities like ours, where distances are wide and resources must be used efficiently, dependable communication is not optional—it is essential.

Upgrading this equipment will significantly improve interoperability with surrounding jurisdictions, enhance officer safety, and strengthen our overall emergency response capabilities. These improvements directly benefit the residents of Montpelier and the broader Bear Lake Valley.

I strongly encourage support for this request and appreciate any consideration given to helping our police department secure the communication tools necessary to serve our community effectively and safely. Sincerely,

Theodore Slivinski
Mayor, City of Montpelier, Idaho



To Whom It May Concern,

As the former Emergency Coordinator for Bear Lake County, I am writing to highlight the urgent need for equipment upgrades—particularly radio communication systems—to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our first responders during emergencies.

During my years coordinating emergency operations in this region, one challenge remained constant: our rural departments have long been asked to meet growing public-safety demands with aging, unreliable equipment and chronically limited funding. While our responders are dedicated and highly capable, their ability to protect the public is directly tied to the tools they have available. Unfortunately, many of those tools—especially radios—are now outdated, prone to failure, and incompatible with the systems used by neighboring jurisdictions.

Rural communities like ours face unique challenges. We cover large geographic areas with small teams and limited budgets. While urban departments often have access to regular equipment replacement cycles and dedicated funding streams, rural agencies must stretch every dollar and often rely on outdated systems far beyond their intended service life. This gap has grown wider over the years, leaving departments like ours struggling to keep pace with modern communication standards.

In my current role as Bear Lake County Commissioner, I am still advocating for our local responders as they navigate these challenges. These upgrades are essential to ensuring that our rural communities receive the same level of protection and preparedness that residents in larger, better-funded areas already expect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Eborn".

Alan Eborn
Bear Lake County Commissioner
District 1



Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: Need for All-Band Radios for the Montpelier Police Department

To whom it may concern,

As Fire Chief for the Montpelier City Fire Department, I am writing to express my strong support for equipping the Montpelier Police Department with all-band radios to improve communication between our two agencies during emergency incidents.

Effective communication is one of the most critical elements of a coordinated emergency response. During structure fires, vehicle accidents, search and rescue operations, and other high-risk incidents, the ability for firefighters and police officers to communicate directly and immediately can significantly improve both response time and operational safety. Currently, the differences in radio band capabilities can create delays or require relayed communication through dispatch, which may slow down coordination during rapidly evolving situations.

All-band radios would allow police officers to communicate directly with fire personnel on the same channels when necessary. This capability would greatly enhance interoperability between our departments, ensuring that important information—such as scene hazards, changing conditions, evacuation needs, or resource requests—can be shared instantly. In emergency services, seconds matter, and removing communication barriers helps protect both responders and the public.

In addition to improving operational efficiency, interoperable radio systems strengthen incident command, reduce confusion at multi-agency scenes, and align our departments with modern public safety communication standards used throughout the region.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage funding and implementing all-band radios for the Montpelier Police Department. This investment would directly contribute to safer, faster, and more coordinated emergency responses for the residents of Montpelier.

Thank you for your continued support of public safety and for considering this important improvement to our emergency communication capabilities.

Respectfully,

Ed Preston
Fire Chief
Montpelier City Fire Department
Montpelier, Idaho