

Law enforcement agency pages

This appendix contains detailed information from our review of each of the 15 law enforcement agencies that were allocated and/or spent monies from the Fund to establish a school safety program in accordance with A.R.S. §41-1733. These agencies included 13 county sheriff’s offices and 2 municipal police departments. One agency, the Coconino County Sheriff’s Office, did not spend any of the Fund monies allocated to it, but we report other applicable information we obtained. The pages for the remaining agencies include the results of our expenditure analysis, including whether Fund monies were spent for statutorily authorized purposes and whether the agency complied with applicable procurement requirements when contracting for an interoperable communication system. Also included are timelines for system purchases and implementation, any plans related to continued system operations, and general county demographic data.

Where applicable, these appendix pages include recommendations for agencies to address any areas we identified for improvement. They also provide an opportunity for agencies to indicate whether they agree with the information presented on their pages and whether they plan to implement any recommendations.

Users can refer to the following guide to understand how the pages are presented and what the information means as it relates to interoperable communication systems.

General county information

The pages for each law enforcement agency we reviewed include demographic information about the county where it is located.¹ Key terms used in this section are described below.

General county information key terms

Population: The estimated population of all county residents retrieved from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity for July 1, 2024.

School age population (projection for July 2024): The estimated population of all county residents between ages 5 to 17 retrieved from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity on July 1, 2024.

Number of K-12 public schools: The number of traditional public and charter schools serving students in kindergarten through grade 12 in the county based on our analysis of fiscal year 2024 data from the National Center for Education Statistic’s (NCES), which is the most recent fiscal year data available. The number of schools reported excludes online schools and nonpublic schools, specifically private schools, tribal schools, and preschools.

¹ Demographic information representing the entire county is included for the 2 municipal police departments reviewed. Police department officials stated that their school safety programs are available to all schools in their respective counties.

General county information key terms (continued)

Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools: The number of kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled at traditional public and charter schools in the county based on our analysis of fiscal year 2024 NCES data, which is the most recent fiscal year data available. Total enrollment reported does not include students attending online schools and nonpublic schools, specifically private schools, tribal schools, and preschools.

Source: Auditor General staff review of the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity estimated population data for all counties in Arizona for July 1, 2024 (retrieved 10/30/25 from <https://oeo.az.gov/population/projections>) and fiscal year 2024 NCES data for Arizona (retrieved 11/20/25 from <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>).

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

This section includes our review of each participating agency's total Fund allocations, interoperable communication system contracted amounts, and expenditures between January 2021 and September 2025. We also address whether expenditures were for authorized purposes and reported to the JLBC in accordance with A.R.S. §41-1733(B). Monies that were allocated to agencies under the School Safety Pilot Program or the Rural County Interoperability Communication Program—2 interoperable communication programs established in 2021—are reported on participating agency pages as pilot program allocations. A key term used in this section is described below.

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies key term

Spent monies only for authorized purposes?: Our determination considered whether agencies expended Fund monies for interoperable communication systems to enhance emergency communication between schools and public safety agencies, and whether these systems were used for the benefit of K-12 public schools, consistent with A.R.S. §41-1733. To make our determination, we reviewed statute, evaluated interoperable communication system capabilities, and considered the schools each agency reported were participating in the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies.

Source: Auditor General staff review of agency-provided documentation of interoperable communication system participants, fiscal year 2024 NCES data for Arizona (retrieved 11/20/25 from <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>), and A.R.S. §41-1733.

Interoperable communication system information

This section includes information about the interoperable communication system each agency purchased with Fund monies, including the contracted system vendor, the number of participating K-12 public schools and public safety agencies, and the number of students enrolled in participating K-12 public schools. It also indicates whether the system performed key functions during our observations and whether it has been utilized during a real emergency event. Key terms used in this section are described on page a-3.

Interoperable communication system key terms

Reported number of public safety agencies participating: The agency's reported number of other public safety agencies, such as local police departments, participating in the interoperable communication system the agency purchased with Fund monies.

Reported number of K-12 public schools participating: The agency's reported number of traditional K-12 public and charter schools participating in the interoperable communication system it purchased with Fund monies. Online schools and nonpublic schools, specifically private schools, tribal schools, and preschools are not included in this total.

Reported number of students enrolled at participating schools: The number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 at traditional public and charter schools that are reported as participating in an agency's interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies. The total is based on the schools each agency reported as participating in its interoperable communication system and our analysis of NCES fiscal year 2024 enrollment data, which is the most recent data available. Students enrolled in online schools or at nonpublic schools, specifically private schools, tribal schools, and preschools are excluded from the total.

Source: Auditor General staff review of agency-provided documentation of interoperable communication system participants and fiscal year 2024 NCES data for Arizona (retrieved 11/20/25 from <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>).

System procurement

This section specifies which agencies were involved in procuring interoperable communication systems using Fund monies and which procurement method was used. This section also includes our determination of whether agencies' procurement processes followed their own city or county's required procurement policies and procedures. Key terms used in this section are described below.

System procurement key terms

Cooperative agreement: An agreement to procure any materials, services, professional services, construction, or construction services with 1 or more public procurement offices in accordance with an already established purchasing agreement entered between agencies.

Proprietary: A solicitation where the purchase of a required product is restricted to a single supplier because the goods or services are only compatible with or are an integral component of products in use by the agency in which replacement is not practical. Proprietary items may be available from several vendors through competitive bidding; however, competition is restricted to this group.

Request for proposal (RFP): A solicitation an agency issues that outlines competitive requirements for services and invites potential vendors to submit competitive proposals for outlined projects.

System procurement key terms (continued)

Sole source: A solicitation where a contract may be awarded for a material, service, or construction item without competition if it is determined in writing that there is only 1 source for the required material, service, or construction item.

Source: Auditor General staff review of A.R.S. §41-2632(A), agency-provided policies and procedures, Federal Acquisition Regulation's website (Retrieved 9/22/25 from <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/subpart-15.2>), and A.R.S. §41-2536.

Contracting best practices

This section includes our determination of whether participating agencies' contracts included detailed pricing information and key components recommended by the National State Auditors Association to facilitate an efficient, effective, and accountable service procurement process.

Interoperable communication system functionality

This section includes information about our interoperable communication system observations conducted in the spring of 2025. We specifically focused on 5 key emergency communication functions from the requirements specified in A.R.S. §41-1733 A(3) because these functions were found to be the most useful for addressing school safety issues according to law enforcement and school officials we spoke with. To make our determination, we observed system functions at each agency that reported having a functional interoperable communication system and at a participating school in their jurisdiction. If an interoperable communication system was not fully functional during our observations, we include the agency's explanation for deficiencies we identified.

Implementation delays

This section includes information agencies reported concerning delays in its interoperable communication system implementation.

Timeline of system implementation

This section includes a timeline of milestones for system purchases and implementation, including when agencies received their initial Fund allocations, established contracts, and made payments to vendors.

Future plans

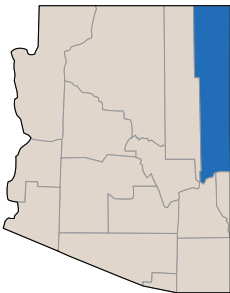
This section includes information about agencies' plans related to ongoing interoperable communication system operations.

Recommendations to agencies

This section includes the recommendations we made to agencies that received and expended Fund monies.

Apache County Sheriff's Office

Apache County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	67,700
School age population (projection for July 2024)	12,487
Number of K-12 public schools	40
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	9,519

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,275,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,000,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$275,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$1,000,000
Total expenditures	\$1,014,000 ¹
Allocation amount remaining	\$261,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	No
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	No
The agency reported 1 tribal and 1 private school were connected to its system. However, statute authorizes Fund monies to be spent only for K-12 public schools, which does not include tribal or private schools. We were unable to determine the amount of Fund monies, if any, the agency spent to benefit the tribal and private schools due to the agency's lack of specific vendor pricing documentation. However, we estimated that the value each of these schools received from the Fund by participating in the system was approximately \$17,100.	

¹ Officials from the Apache County finance department reported paying an additional \$14,000 to the State of Arizona for a use-tax payment but could not explain why the use-tax payment was necessary nor the sources of the monies used for the payment.

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	9
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	22 ¹
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	5,363
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	N/A ²

¹ In addition to 22 public schools, agency officials reported that 1 nonpublic tribal school and 1 private school were connected to its interoperable communication system.

² The agency reported the system was not functional as of June 2025.

System procurement

The Apache County sheriff's office, finance department, attorney's office, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	No
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	No
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	No

We were unable to observe the system in use during the audit because the agency reported it was not functional. The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies, such as traditional 911 service.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to County and vendor staff turnover, outdated communication infrastructure, and a lack of training from the vendor on system functionality.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
November	Allocated \$1,000,000 in Fund monies.
December	Signed \$1,000,000 contract with Mutualink.
↓	
2023	
January	Paid Mutualink \$250,000.
March	Paid Mutualink \$250,000.
December	Paid Mutualink \$250,000.
↓	
2024	
May	Paid the State of Arizona a \$14,000 use-tax payment for the Mutualink system. The County could not provide information about the source of monies it used for this use-tax payment.
↓	
2025	
March	We were unable to observe the system because the agency indicated it was not functional.
June	Made final \$250,000 payment to Mutualink.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025, and at that time, the agency reported that the system was not functional. According to agency officials, the agency will extend its contract with Mutualink and is continuing its efforts to make its system operational by updating its communication infrastructure and working with the vendor to schedule training for its staff. Additionally, if Fund monies are no longer available, the continued use of the system depends on if the agency can fund and maintain the operational status of the technology. Further, if and when the system becomes operational, agency officials stated that they would like to extend the system to additional schools in the County.

Recommendations to the Apache County Sheriff's Office

1. Determine the amount of Fund monies spent for the benefit of any nonpublic schools, and report this information to the Arizona Department of Administration.
2. Develop and implement procedures to ensure that ongoing interoperable communication system costs, such as licensing fees, for any nonpublic schools are not paid with Fund monies.
3. Follow the requirement set forth in A.R.S. §41-1733(B) to report all Fund expenditures for the preceding fiscal year to JLBC by November 1 each year, and, as applicable, promptly submit any required reports that were not previously submitted for prior years' expenditures.
4. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
5. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
6. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
7. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
8. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.

9. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
10. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

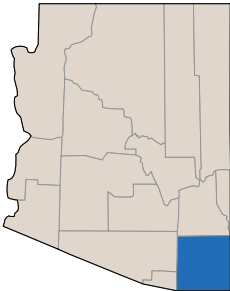
Apache County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The agency wants to clarify that including tribal schools was a deliberate and principled decision made when accepting the grant. The Sheriff's approval to pursue the grant depended on making sure schools serving Apache County residents, including those on the Navajo Nation, were not left out of emergency communication and safety plans. This approach was grounded in the principles of public safety needs and regional interoperability considerations. The agency recognizes the need to improve documentation and reporting on such participation and remains dedicated to fully complying with all applicable laws.

Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Cochise County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	127,800
School age population (projection for July 2024)	20,134
Number of K-12 public schools	69
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	18,452

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,500,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,500,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$0
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount ¹	\$471,312
Total expenditures	\$447,945
Allocation amount remaining	\$1,052,055
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

¹ The cooperative agreement contract the agency used to purchase its interoperable communication system did not include a total price for the system, stating that prices would be outlined in order forms the vendor provided. We calculated the total contracted amount based on system implementation costs obtained from the order forms and subscription costs from pricing lists for the 3-year contract term.

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Navigate360
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	8
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	60
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	18,382
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	Yes

System procurement

The Cochise County sheriff’s office, office of the school superintendent, treasurer’s office, procurement department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Cooperative agreement
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency’s location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

At the time of our observation, security cameras at the school site we visited were not connected to the interoperable communication system, and the agency staff we observed during the system test were unable to view the school’s site maps in the system. The agency reported that it is continuing to work with its participating schools and the vendor to connect security cameras and will ensure that interactive maps and floor plans are accessible to county law enforcement agencies through the system.

Implementation delays

Agency officials with the County School Superintendent and County Sheriff’s Office did not report any implementation delays.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
December	Allocated \$1,500,000 in Fund monies.
↓	
2023	
July	Signed \$471,312 contract with Navigate360. ¹
August	Paid Navigate360 \$292,027.
↓	
2024	
March	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
April	Paid Navigate360 \$66,275.
September	Made final \$89,643 payment to Navigate360.
↓	
2025	
April	We conducted our system observation.

¹ The cooperative agreement contract the agency used to purchase its interoperable communication system did not include a total price for the system, stating that prices would be outlined in order forms the vendor provided. We calculated the total contracted amount based on system implementation costs obtained from the order forms and subscription costs from pricing lists for the 3-year contract term.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Navigate360 expires in July 2026. If Fund monies are no longer available, officials from the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office reported they will work with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to operate the system using other funding sources.

Recommendations to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
3. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
4. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
5. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
6. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
7. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Cochise County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation:

Response to Finding:

Interoperability Communication System Functionality

Live Security Camera Footage

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office acknowledges that live security camera footage has not been integrated into the current interoperability communication system. At this time, the existing

infrastructure cannot reliably support continuous live video feeds without significantly impacting the performance of other critical communication channels.

In prioritizing emergency response functionality, the Sheriff's Office has determined that live camera feeds are a lower priority compared to maintaining clear, uninterrupted communication among first responders. To ensure situational awareness, the system currently provides virtual maps and detailed floor plans through the EMS platform, which supply sufficient information to guide emergency personnel during incidents.

Access to School Maps and Building Floor Plans

As part of the Navigate360 contract, which includes 911Cellular integration, all public and charter schools in Cochise County were electronically mapped during the 2023–2024 school year. Interactive floor plans were created for every building on each campus, down to the individual room level.

These maps are fully integrated into the 911Cellular dashboard within the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) view and are automatically transmitted to responding law enforcement and EMS personnel via a secure link. This ensures that first responders have immediate access to accurate, detailed campus layouts during emergencies.

While the interactive maps were not displayed during the audit observation, they are available and accessible to 911 dispatch and law enforcement through the 911Cellular platform. This functionality remains active and operational for emergency response purposes.

Future Plans

The integration of the Navigate360 Emergency Management Suite with the 911Cellular integration has strengthened communication and preparedness strategies between law enforcement agencies and county school districts. Consistent emergency response technology across all schools allows law enforcement to plan and respond more effectively, while standardized 911 protocols and best practices provide a unified framework for school safety.

Looking ahead, remaining funds will be directed toward enhancing law enforcement active shooter training, piloting automated door locking systems in select schools, and continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of Navigate360 throughout the 2026–2027 school year. With the system now live in all 60 schools, at least one additional year will be needed to ensure the platform fully meets the needs of the Sheriff's Office, 911 dispatch, local law enforcement, and school districts.

PROCUREMENT

Followed Applicable Procurement Policies and Procedures (Cooperative Purchasing)

The contract with Navigate360 was presented to the Board Supervisors without the BuyBoard Cooperative Contract being included as part of the approval process.

Moving forward, all parties involved will work together to ensure that all procedures are followed in the correct order and that all documents that need Board of Supervisor approval will be submitted for Board approval and signature.

Contract Included Standards/Provisions for Evaluating Vendor Performance

The County used a national cooperative contract with BuyBoard and accepted a order form from Navigate360.

Moving forward the departments (Sheriff and School) will work early in the process with Procurement to ensure provisions for evaluating vendor performance and provisions are included and determined in all executed contracts.

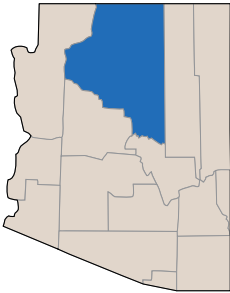
Contracts Contained Detailed Pricing Information

Although the County did not provide a contract that contained detailed pricing information, the County used a national cooperative contract with BuyBoard. The Navigate360 price list is a part of the BuyBoard contract. Cochise County accepted an order form from Navigate360 which did include pricing.

One of the benefits of using cooperative contracts is to alleviate duplicating effort on contract development and implementation.

Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Coconino County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	151,400
School age population (projection for July 2024)	21,704
Number of public schools	57
Number of students enrolled at public schools	16,438

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office was allocated \$1,250,000 through the School Safety Interoperability Fund program. Agency officials stated they opted out of the program because the county dispatch is operated by Flagstaff Police Department, and the majority of students within the county are under Flagstaff Police Department's jurisdiction. The agency reported the Fund allocation was offered to the Flagstaff Police Department, which also declined the monies.¹ The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies and is working on connecting its systems to interoperable communication systems purchased by county public schools.

Coconino County Sheriff's Office's response

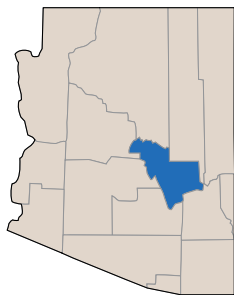
Agency response: Not applicable.

We did not request a response from the Coconino County Sheriff's Office because we did not make any recommendations to it.

¹ According to Flagstaff Police Department officials we spoke with, the Flagstaff Police Department declined Fund monies due to its limited capacity to oversee the interoperable communication system and concerns about the ongoing system costs.

Gila County Sheriff's Office

Gila County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	54,600
School age population (projection for July 2024)	7,796
Number of K-12 public schools	28
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	7,441

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,710,540
Pilot program allocation	\$430,540
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,000,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$280,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$1,430,540
Total expenditures	\$1,430,540
Allocation amount remaining	\$280,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	No
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	10
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	7
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	2,037
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	Yes

System procurement

The Gila County Sheriff's Office, procurement office, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	Yes
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

At the time of our observation, law enforcement could not view the school's site maps because the school had not submitted them to the vendor to be uploaded to the system.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that the interoperable communication system did not have a contractual deadline for implementation. However, the agency reported that the implementation process was difficult due to vendor staff turnover. Agency officials further reported that 3 participating public schools decided to no longer participate in the interoperable communication system due to the implementation delays and a lack of communication from the vendor.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
December	Allocated \$215,270 in Fund monies.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$107,635 in Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$107,635 in Fund monies.
September	Signed \$430,540 contract with Mutualink and paid Mutualink \$215,270.
↓	
2023	
January	Allocated \$1,000,000 in Fund monies.
August	Signed \$1,000,000 contract extension with Mutualink and paid Mutualink \$715,270.
December	Paid Mutualink \$250,000.
↓	
2024	
July	Made final \$250,000 payment to Mutualink.
November	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
↓	
2025	
June	We conducted our system observation.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. According to agency officials, they are considering other interoperable communication system options with input from participating public safety agencies and public schools. Agency officials further reported that whether or not they contract with another vendor depends on whether the remaining allocation of Fund monies is sufficient to contract with another interoperable communication system vendor.

Recommendations to the Gila County Sheriff's Office

1. Follow the requirement set forth in A.R.S. §41-1733(B) to report all Fund expenditures for the preceding fiscal year to JLBC by November 1 each year, and, as applicable, promptly submit any required reports that were not previously submitted for prior years' expenditures.
2. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
3. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
4. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
5. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
6. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
7. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
8. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Gila County Sheriff's Office's response

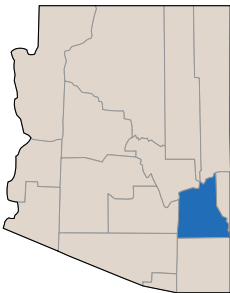
Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The Gila County Sheriff's Office will make every effort to:

- Comply with A.R.S. § 41-1733(B) reporting requirements and submit any past-due reports.
- Develop a cost estimate for FY 2027–2031 system operations in coordination with the vendor and share it as required. Develop a long-term funding and operations plan for review by the State
- Ensure all future Fund expenditures adhere to applicable procurement requirements.
- Include clearly defined deliverables and detailed, verifiable pricing in all contracts and amendments.
- Implement a structured process to monitor vendor compliance with contract terms.
- Formalize regular testing with agencies and schools of the interoperable communications system
- Assess system functionality, deficiencies with vendors, and consult legal counsel when needed.
- Provide progress updates as these actions are implemented

Graham County Sheriff's Office

Graham County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	39,400
School age population (projection for July 2024)	7,495
Number of K-12 public schools	24
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	6,615

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,254,930
Pilot program allocation	\$224,930
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$750,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$280,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$974,930
Total expenditures	\$974,930
Allocation amount remaining	\$280,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	6
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	18
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	6,237
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	N/A ¹

¹ The agency reported the system was not functional as of June 2025.

System procurement

The Graham County board of supervisors and finance department were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	No
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	No
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	No

We were unable to observe the system in use during the audit because the agency reported it was not functional. The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies, such as traditional 911 service.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to difficulties working with the vendor, including poor communication, a lack of training for agency and public school staff, and vendor staff turnover. Agency officials further reported that the system repeatedly failed to work when the agency tested the system at participating public schools.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$112,465 in Fund monies.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$56,233 in Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$56,233 in Fund monies.
October	Signed \$974,930 contract with Mutualink.
December	Allocated \$750,000 in Fund monies and paid Mutualink \$234,733.
↓	
2023	
March	Paid Mutualink \$234,733.
November	Paid Mutualink \$234,733.
↓	
2024	
March	Made final \$234,733 payment to Mutualink.
September	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expires in December 2025. Agency officials reported in November 2025 that the agency is continuing to work with participating public schools and the vendor, and is making progress implementing the system. Agency officials further indicated they are considering other interoperable communication system options with input from participating public schools, but if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it may not be able to continue operating a system due to lack of funding.

Recommendations to the Graham County Sheriff's Office

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for their system's ongoing operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its boards of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Follow their applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
3. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
4. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
5. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
6. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
7. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its governing body, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office.

Graham County Sheriff's Office's response

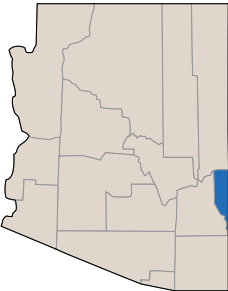
Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: These responses correspond to the numbered recommendations received:

1. We have already requested 2027-2031 costs from the vendor and will communicate these estimates to the Board of Supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor when received.
2. We are looking into possibly adding sole source language to our procurement policy.
3. We will work to add the items listed into the terms of the pending contract with the vendor.
4. We will establish a monitoring policy.
5. We will again work to add the items listed into the terms of the pending contract with the vendor.
6. We will again work to add the items listed into the terms of the pending contract with the vendor.
7. There is no ongoing operating plan beyond the State's appropriation.

Greenlee County Sheriff's Office

Greenlee County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	9,700
School age population (projection for July 2024)	1,860
Number of K-12 public schools	7
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	1,799

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$859,338
Pilot program allocation	\$189,338
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$500,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$170,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$689,338
Total expenditures	\$689,338
Allocation amount remaining	\$170,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	No
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	0
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	0
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	0
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	N/A ¹

¹ The agency reported the system was not functional as of June 2025.

System procurement

The Greenlee County sheriff's office, treasurer's office, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	No
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	No
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	No

We were unable to observe the system in use during the audit because the agency reported it was not functional. The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies, such as traditional 911 service.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to county and vendor staff turnover, outdated communication infrastructure, and a lack of communication from the vendor. Agency officials further reported that the participating public schools in the county decided to no longer participate in the interoperable communication system due to the implementation delays.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$94,669 in Fund monies.
November	Signed \$189,338 contract with Mutualink.



2022	
January	Allocated \$47,335 in Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$47,335 in Fund monies.
June	Paid Mutualink \$94,669.
December	Allocated \$500,000 in Fund monies.



2023	
September	Signed \$500,000 contract extension with Mutualink.
November	Paid Mutualink \$94,669.



2024	
March	Paid Mutualink \$250,000.



2025	
June	Paid Mutualink \$125,000.
July	Made final \$125,000 payment to Mutualink.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025, and the agency reported it is considering other interoperable communication system options with input from county public schools.

Recommendations to Greenlee County Sheriff's Office

1. Follow the requirement set forth in A.R.S. §41-1733(B) to report all Fund expenditures for the preceding fiscal year to JLBC by November 1 each year, and, as applicable, promptly submit any required reports that were not previously submitted for prior years' expenditures.
2. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
3. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
4. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
5. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
6. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
7. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system, and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
8. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

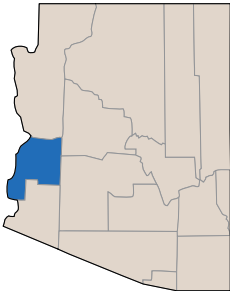
Greenlee County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The Greenlee County Sheriff's Office has had a new administration as of 01/01/2024. It should be noted this current administration under Sheriff Eric Ellison had no prior knowledge of any agreements or contracts which Sheriff Sumner signed or agreed to.

La Paz County Sheriff's Office

La Paz County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	17,000
School age population (projection for July 2024) ¹	2,083
Number of K-12 public schools	12
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	2,173

¹ The school age population is a projection of the county's population for July 2024, provided by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. The number of students enrolled at public schools is school-reported data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics. The number of students enrolled in public schools appears to be higher than the total school age population due to the difference in data sources and the uncertainty inherent in making population projections.

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$950,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$750,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$200,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$750,000
Total expenditures	\$750,000
Allocation amount remaining	\$200,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	3
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	10
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	2,104
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	No

System procurement

The La Paz County sheriff's office and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	Yes
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

During our observation, the agency had difficulty viewing the school's live security camera footage but was able to do so after a delay of approximately 3 minutes. Additionally, the agency could not view the school's site maps because the school had not submitted them to the vendor to be uploaded to the system. The agency reported that it is working with participating schools and the vendor to ensure that site maps are uploaded to the system.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that delays in system implementation were due to vendor staff turnover.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
October	Allocated \$750,000 of Fund monies and signed \$750,000 contract with Mutualink.
December	Paid Mutualink \$375,000.

↓

2025	
February	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
April	We conducted our system observation.
August	Made final \$375,000 payment to Mutualink.

Future plans

The agency’s contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. The agency reported that it will extend its contract with Mutualink and continue to operate the system using its fiscal year 2026 Fund allocations. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it may not be able to continue operating the system due to lack of funding.

Recommendations to the La Paz County Sheriff’s Office

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
3. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.

4. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
5. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
6. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
7. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

La Paz County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The La Paz County Sheriff's Office has reviewed the school safety and interoperability report and findings conducted by the Auditor General's office. Through this review the La Paz Sheriff's Office has made aware of areas in which best practices were not followed or utilized for the benefit of the purchaser. I agree with the report and its findings as they are outlined in the review. It also identified areas where things could have been put in place to better protect the purchaser in this case the Sheriff's Office and County. The experience was eye-opening and allowed for a better understanding on the part of myself, the Sheriff and my staff to seek more answers and set expectations when negotiating with vendors in situations such as this moving forward.

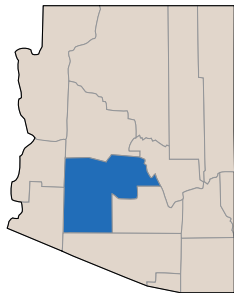
It is the intent of this agency in conjunction with the county to utilize best practices when entering into contractual agreements for products and or services in the future moving forward allowing us the purchaser to maintain better controls in such situations, thus providing further protection for the department and county.

It was a very educational experience and will allow us to be better prepared for future contract negotiation and implementation. Thank you for the time and attention that was placed into this review process.

Respectfully,
William Ponce,
Sheriff La Paz County

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Maricopa County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	4,757,600
School age population (projection for July 2024)	785,530
Number of K-12 public schools	1,165
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	696,724

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$5,150,000
Pilot program allocation	\$2,100,000
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$3,050,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$0
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$2,761,119
Total expenditures	\$449,151
Allocation amount remaining	\$4,700,849
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Motorola Solutions
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	1 ¹
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	5 ¹
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	1,665
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	Yes

¹ The agency reported it focused on making its interoperable communication system available to schools the agency identified as having the greatest need for improved interoperable communication.

System procurement

The Maricopa County sheriff's office, procurement department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	RFP
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	Yes

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	Yes
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	Yes

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

At the time of our observation, security cameras at the school site we visited were not connected to the system, and law enforcement could not view the school's site maps because the school had not submitted them to the vendor to be uploaded to the system. The agency reported that the issues we identified during our observations were resolved as of November 2025.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to coordinating with public schools, including establishing a memorandum of understanding with each participating public school.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$525,000 of Fund monies.
November	Allocated \$525,000 of Fund monies.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$525,000 of Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$525,000 of Fund monies.
October	Allocated \$3,050,000 of Fund monies.
↓	
2023	
November	Signed \$2,761,119 contract with Motorola Solutions.
↓	
2024	
May	Paid Motorola Solutions \$449,151.
September	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
↓	
2025	
May	We conducted our system observation.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Motorola Solutions expires in October 2026. The agency reported it is working with State, county, and local agencies to expand its interoperable communication system to other county public schools. The agency also reported it is developing training programs for public safety agencies and public schools to more quickly implement the system at additional schools.

Recommendations to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
3. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
4. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
5. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office's response

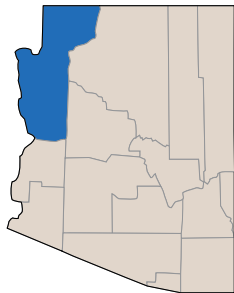
Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: MCSO agrees with the information presented in this audit report with a note on two of the items: As the report states we could not view live security camera footage during the State Auditor General's test, but this functionality will be available when the system is fully implemented. Likewise, the access to school maps and building plans will also be a standard feature to the system and available when fully implemented. Also, as of this response dated December 11, 2025, we have three additional schools participating in the program for a total of eight implementations.

MCSO agrees with the audit recommendations 1 – 5 and will plan to implement them through a coordinated effort with participating schools, vendors and participating public safety agencies.

Mohave County Sheriff's Office

Mohave County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	230,900
School age population (projection for July 2024)	28,676
Number of K-12 public schools	64
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	22,536

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,875,000
Pilot program allocation	\$100,000
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,250,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$525,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$1,350,000
Total expenditures	\$1,065,104
Allocation amount remaining	\$809,896
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	5
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	51
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	21,890
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	No

System procurement

The Mohave County sheriff's office, procurement department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	Yes

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

We were unable to observe some system functionality because school staff could not log in to the Mutualink system during our observation. Additionally, security cameras at the school site where we performed our observation were not functioning at the time of our observation, and the school had not provided site maps to the vendor to be uploaded to the system. The agency reported that it is working with participating schools and the vendor to ensure that the system is fully functional.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to outdated communication infrastructure.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$50,000 in Fund monies.
December	Signed \$100,000 contract with Mutualink.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$25,000 in Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$25,000 in Fund monies.
May	Paid Mutualink \$50,000.
October	Allocated \$1,250,000 in Fund monies.
November	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
December	Signed \$1,250,000 contract extension with Mutualink and paid Mutualink \$625,000.
↓	
2024	
February	Paid Mutualink \$27,604.
March	Paid Mutualink \$50,000.
April	Made final \$312,500 payment to Mutualink.
↓	
2025	
April	We conducted our system observation.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink did not have an expiration date. Agency officials reported they are considering other interoperable communication system options. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it may not be able to continue operating the system due to lack of funding.

Recommendations to Mohave County Sheriff's Office

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
3. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
4. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
5. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
6. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Mohave County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The Mohave County Sheriff's Office acknowledges the findings of the Arizona Auditor General.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office accepts the findings and the recommendations moving forward.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office will make every effort to satisfy the recommendations.

It is the intent of the Mohave County Sheriff's Office to utilize the system as designed.

Areas of concern are noted, and immediate corrections will be made.

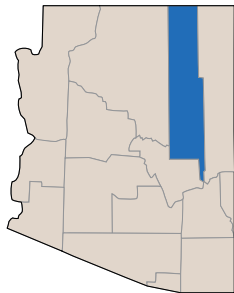
The Mohave County Sheriff's Office will work with the vendor and all schools attached to ensure functionality and ease of access.

Additional training will be conducted.

Sheriff Doug Schuster
Mohave County Sheriff's Office
(928)753-0753

Navajo County Sheriff's Office

Navajo County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	107,700
School age population (projection for July 2024)	20,432
Number of K-12 public schools	58
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	16,537

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation

\$1,940,000

Pilot program allocation

\$150,000

School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025

\$1,250,000

Fiscal year 2026 allocation

\$540,000

Total interoperable communication system contracted amount

\$1,400,000

Total expenditures

\$1,400,000

Allocation amount remaining

\$540,000

Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?

Yes

Spent monies only for authorized purposes?

No

The agency reported 1 tribal and 2 private schools were connected to its system. However, statute authorizes Fund monies to be spent only for K-12 public schools, which does not include tribal or private schools. We were unable to determine the amount of Fund monies, if any, the agency spent to benefit the tribal and private schools due to the agency's lack of specific vendor pricing documentation. However, we estimated that the value each of these tribal and private schools received from the Fund by participating in the system was approximately \$17,100.

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	8
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	37 ¹
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	13,301
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	Yes

¹ In addition to 37 public schools, agency officials reported that 1 nonpublic tribal school and 2 private schools were connected to its interoperable system.

System procurement

The Navajo County sheriff's office, procurement department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system. The Navajo County Board of Supervisors approved the procurement as required, but the agency lacked a written determination from the county procurement manager justifying the sole-source procurement, which is required by county procurement policies.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency’s location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	N/A
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

We were unable to observe live access to security cameras during our observation because the security cameras were not functional at the school site where we performed our observation. However, agency officials indicated that at the time of our observation, other schools’ security cameras were connected to the system and the agency had access to the camera feeds during emergencies. Additionally, the school had not provided site maps to the vendor to be uploaded to the system. In December 2025, the agency reported that the school had provided its site maps to the vendor and the site maps had been uploaded to the system.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that the interoperable communication system did not have a contractual deadline for implementation. However, the agency reported that implementation took longer than anticipated because of infrastructure limitations, such as unreliable internet or cellular service in rural areas of the county. Agency officials also reported that a lack of training on system functionality from the vendor for school and public safety staff further delayed implementation.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
November	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
February	Signed \$150,000 contract with Mutualink and paid Mutualink \$75,000.
April	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
October	Allocated \$1,250,000 in Fund monies.
November	Signed \$1,250,000 contract extension with Mutualink.
December	Paid Mutualink \$625,000.
↓	
2023	
February	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
August	Paid Mutualink \$75,000.
↓	
2024	
January	Paid Mutualink \$312,500.
August	Made final \$312,500 payment to Mutualink.
↓	
2025	
March	We conducted our system observation.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. The agency reported that it will extend its contract with Mutualink and continue to operate the system using its fiscal year 2026 Fund allocations. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it would evaluate whether it is able to continue operating the system using other funding sources.

Recommendations to the Navajo County Sheriff's Office

1. Determine the amount of Fund monies spent for the benefit of any nonpublic schools, and report this information to the Arizona Department of Administration.
2. Develop and implement procedures to ensure that ongoing interoperable communication system costs, such as licensing fees, for any nonpublic schools are not paid with Fund monies.
3. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
4. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
5. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
6. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
7. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
8. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
9. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Navajo County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation:

Page 1 – Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund Monies

Spent monies only for authorized purposes? – Findings: NO

Response: The Navajo County Sheriff's Office recognizes that there were 3 schools identified as non-public that took part in the school safety project within the County. While these schools may not be considered public, these schools fall within the public safety response area of the Sheriff's Office in the event of an emergency. It is our recommendation and request that all schools in Navajo County be able to get access to funding to participate in the county-wide school safety project.

Pinal County Sheriff's Office

Pinal County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	486,500
School age population (projection for July 2024)	76,170
Number of K-12 public schools	126
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	60,671

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$2,455,192
Pilot program allocation	\$655,192
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,800,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$0
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$2,455,192
Total expenditures	\$2,005,192
Allocation amount remaining	\$450,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	No
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	8
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	66
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	38,094
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	N/A ¹

¹ The agency reported the system was not functional as of June 2025.

System procurement

The Pinal County sheriff's office, treasurer's office, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	No
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	No
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	No
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	No
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	No

We were unable to observe the system in use during the audit because the agency reported it was not functional. The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies, such as traditional 911 service.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported delays in system implementation were due to unreliable technology infrastructure and a lack of communication and training from the vendor. Agency officials further reported the vendor has not successfully implemented the system at any participating public schools in the county.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
January	Signed \$655,192 contract with Mutualink.
March	Allocated \$655,192 in Fund monies and paid Mutualink \$327,586.
October	Allocated \$1,800,000 in Fund monies.
December	Signed \$1,800,000 contract extension with Mutualink.



2023	
February	Paid Mutualink \$450,000.
March	Paid Mutualink \$450,000.
September	Paid Mutualink \$327,596.
December	Paid Mutualink \$450,000.

Future plans

The agency’s contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. The agency reported it will not renew its contract with Mutualink due to the system not functioning to the agency’s standards. Further, the agency reported that it is withholding its final \$450,000 payment to Mutualink and is pursuing reimbursement from the vendor for costs it has already paid due to the vendor’s failure to provide contracted services. The agency reported it is considering other interoperable communication system options. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it would evaluate whether it is able to continue operating a system using other funding sources.

Recommendations to the Pinal County Sheriff's Office

1. Follow the requirement set forth in A.R.S. §41-1733(B) to report all Fund expenditures for the preceding fiscal year to JLBC by November 1 each year, and, as applicable, promptly submit any required reports that were not previously submitted for prior years' expenditures.
2. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
3. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
4. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
5. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
6. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
7. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
8. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

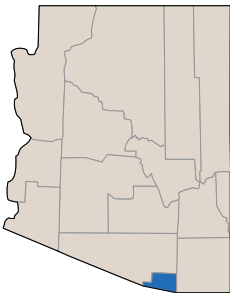
Pinal County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The Pinal County Sheriff's Office will move forward with the recommendations from this audit. We will wait to view the final draft before we choose to move on with a company that actually works and will benefit the citizens of Pinal County.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Santa Cruz County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	49,400
School age population (projection for July 2024) ¹	9,254
Number of K-12 public schools	25
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	10,175

¹ The school age population is a projection of the county's population for July 2024, provided by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity. The number of students enrolled at public schools is school-reported data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics. The number of students enrolled in public schools appears to be higher than the total school age population due to the difference in data sources and the uncertainty inherent in making population projections.

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,100,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$750,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$350,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$750,000
Total expenditures	\$750,000
Allocation amount remaining	\$350,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	No
The agency reported 1 private school was connected to its system. However, statute authorizes Fund monies to be spent only for K-12 public schools, which does not include private schools. According to the agency, the private school does not have any Mutualink licenses assigned to it, and thus, we were unable to estimate the value of any benefit the private school may have improperly received from being reportedly connected to the system.	

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	9
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	21 ¹
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	9,929
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	Yes

¹ In addition to 21 public schools, the agency reported that 1 private school was connected to its interoperable communication system.

System procurement

The Santa Cruz County sheriff's office, finance department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Sole source
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	Yes

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	Yes
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	Yes
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that the interoperable communication system did not have a contractual deadline for implementation. However, implementation took longer than anticipated due to infrastructure limitations, such as outdated communication equipment that had to be updated before the Mutualink system could be installed.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
November	Allocated \$750,000 in Fund monies.
↓	
2023	
May	Signed \$750,000 contract with Mutualink.
June	Paid Mutualink \$187,500.
July	Paid Mutualink \$187,500.
November	Paid Mutualink \$187,500.
↓	
2024	
October	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
↓	
2025	
April	We conducted our system observation.
June	Made final \$187,500 payment to Mutualink.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. The agency reported that it will continue to operate its Mutualink system using its fiscal year 2026 Fund allocation but is also considering other interoperable communication system options. The agency also reported it would like to develop intergovernmental agreements for each participating school's use of the system. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it would evaluate whether it is able to continue operating the system using other funding sources.

Recommendations to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

1. Determine the amount of Fund monies spent for the benefit of any nonpublic schools, and report this information to the Arizona Department of Administration.
2. Develop and implement procedures to ensure that ongoing interoperable communication system costs, such as licensing fees, for any nonpublic schools are not paid with Fund monies.
3. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
4. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
5. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
6. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
7. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

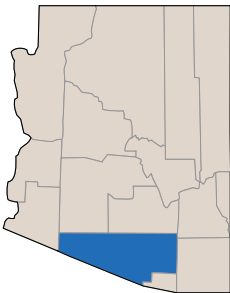
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: As part of the future IGA with Mutualink/Public Schools, define system cost. projection cost for future year(s). Incorporate recommendations, such as system testing & updates. The interoperability system was designed & deployed as required for Public Safety & Public Schools to rapidly respond to ANY school in crisis. Private schools will be reevaluated going forward.

City of Tucson Police Department

Pima County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	1,087,900
School age population (projection for July 2024)	163,561
Number of K-12 public schools	323
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	137,287

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$2,000,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$2,000,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$0
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$3,566,204
Total expenditures	\$557,936
Allocation amount remaining	\$1,442,064
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Motorola Solutions ¹
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	10
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	91
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	43,990
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	No

¹ In December 2024, the agency canceled its contract with Motorola Solutions. The agency reported that it is developing its own interoperable communications functionality with input from participating K-12 public schools and public safety agencies.

System procurement

The City of Tucson police department, public safety communications department, business services department, and office of the city manager were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	RFP
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	Yes

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	Yes
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	Yes

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency’s location and who reported it?	N/A
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	N/A
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	N/A
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	N/A
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	N/A

The agency originally contracted with Motorola Solutions but canceled its contract in December 2024 after it determined the system would not meet schools’ needs.

Implementation delays

Agency officials did not report any implementation delays while working with Motorola Solutions, but the agency canceled its contract in December 2024 after it determined the system would not meet schools’ needs.

Timeline of system implementation

2022	
October	Allocated \$2,000,000 in Fund monies.
↓	
2024	
April	Signed \$3,566,204 contract with Motorola Solutions.
June	Paid Motorola Solutions \$329,823.
December	Terminated contract with Motorola Solutions.
↓	
2025	
March	Made final \$288,113 payment to Motorola Solutions.

Future plans

The agency reported that it is developing its own interoperable communications functionality that it will make available to schools throughout Pima County. The agency is also working with local public schools to connect with their panic button alert systems. Additionally, the agency reported it plans to grant school district security staff restricted access to the agency’s real-time crime center and dispatch systems to provide real-time communication between school district security and agency dispatch staff.

Recommendations for the Tucson Police Department

1. Work with participating public safety agencies and public schools to ensure any interoperable communication system purchased or developed using Fund monies meets their needs and the requirements listed in A.R.S. §41-1733(A).

2. For any school safety program established using Fund monies pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1733, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031, as applicable, and provide this information to its city council, the Legislature, and the Governor.
3. Follow applicable procurement requirements for any purchases using Fund monies, and establish a process to monitor any associated contracts to ensure vendors comply with contract terms.
4. Establish a process for routinely testing any interoperable communication system purchased or developed using Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools.

Tucson Police Department's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Yavapai County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	254,700
School age population (projection for July 2024)	30,086
Number of K-12 public schools	83
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	23,682

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$2,550,000
Pilot program allocation	\$150,000
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,800,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$600,000
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$1,950,000
Total expenditures	\$1,950,000
Allocation amount remaining	\$600,000
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	No
The agency reported 1 private school was connected to its system. However, statute authorizes Fund monies to be spent only for K-12 public schools, which does not include private schools. We were unable to determine the amount of Fund monies, if any, the agency spent to benefit the private school due to the agency's lack of specific vendor pricing documentation. However, we estimated that the value the private school received from the Fund by participating in the system was approximately \$17,100.	

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Mutualink
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	7
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	34 ¹
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	12,345
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	No

¹ In addition to 34 public schools, the agency reported that 1 private school was connected to its interoperable communication system.

System procurement

The Yavapai County sheriff's office, finance department, and board of supervisors were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system. Although the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors approved the procurement as required, the agency lacked certain documentation, such as a list of the alternative sources considered, required by the county's procurement policies for all proprietary procurements.

Procurement method	Proprietary
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	No

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	No
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	No
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	No
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	No
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	No

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency's location and who reported it?	Yes
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	Yes
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	Yes
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	Yes
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	Yes

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that the interoperable communication system did not have a contractual deadline for implementation. However, implementation took longer than anticipated due to vendor staff turnover, difficulties scheduling school staff trainings on system functionality, and difficulties connecting agency and participating school IT systems to the interoperable communication system.

Timeline of system implementation

2021	
October	Allocated \$75,000 in Fund monies.
↓	
2022	
January	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
April	Allocated \$37,500 in Fund monies.
June	Signed \$150,000 contract with Mutualink.
July	Paid Mutualink \$75,000.
December	Allocated \$1,800,000 in Fund monies and signed \$1,800,000 contract extension with Mutualink.
↓	
2023	
January	Paid Mutualink \$900,000.
March	Paid Mutualink \$75,000.
July	Paid Mutualink \$450,000 and agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.
↓	
2025	
April	We conducted our system observation.
June	Made final \$450,000 payment to Mutualink.

Future plans

The agency's contract with Mutualink expired in June 2025. The agency reported that it will extend its contract with Mutualink and continue to operate its system using its fiscal year 2026 Fund allocation. Additionally, agency officials reported they will review participating public safety agency and school licenses to ensure the agency is billed accurately for future Mutualink payments. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it will pay the system licensing costs for public safety agencies and schools that already participate in the system.

Recommendations to the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

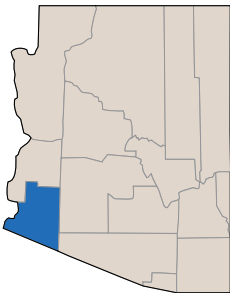
1. Determine the amount of Fund monies spent for the benefit of any nonpublic schools, and report this information to the Arizona Department of Administration.
2. Develop and implement procedures to ensure that ongoing interoperable communication system costs, such as licensing fees, for any nonpublic schools are not paid with Fund monies.
3. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.
4. Follow its applicable procurement requirements for any future expenditures of Fund monies.
5. Ensure that any contracts, contract addendums, or contract extensions that involve the use of Fund monies follow recommended practices for contracting by including elements such as clearly defined deliverables, incentives and/or penalties tied to vendor performance, and contract termination provisions; and obtain detailed pricing information sufficient to verify that charges are accurate and reasonable.
6. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.
7. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
8. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its board of supervisors, the Legislature, and the Governor.

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

City of Yuma Police Department

Yuma County general information (fiscal year 2024)



Population	216,100
School age population (projection for July 2024)	38,635
Number of K-12 public schools	72
Number of students enrolled at K-12 public schools	37,699

Overview of School Safety Interoperability Fund monies

As of September 2025

Total allocation	\$1,350,000
Pilot program allocation	\$0
School Safety Interoperability Fund allocation through fiscal year 2025	\$1,350,000
Fiscal year 2026 allocation	\$0
Total interoperable communication system contracted amount	\$1,167,727
Total expenditures	\$137,404
Allocation amount remaining	\$1,212,596
Submitted all required annual expenditure reports to JLBC?	Yes
Spent monies only for authorized purposes?	Yes

Interoperable communication system information

Interoperable communication system vendor selected	Motorola Solutions
Reported number of public safety agencies participating	7
Reported number of K-12 public schools participating	35
Number of students enrolled at participating K-12 public schools	23,353
Interoperable communication system utilized during real emergency event?	No

System procurement

The City of Yuma police department, IT department, finance department, and city council were involved in the procurement process for the interoperable communication system.

Procurement method	Cooperative agreement
Followed applicable procurement policies and procedures?	Yes

Contracting best practices

Created a contract outside of vendor proposal?	Yes
Contract included standards/provisions for evaluating vendor performance?	Yes
Contract included incentives and/or penalties linked to performance?	Yes
Contract included termination provisions for either/both parties?	Yes
Contracts contained detailed pricing information?	Yes

Interoperable communication system functionality

Could the agency determine the emergency’s location and who reported it?	N/A
Could the agency receive panic button alerts?	N/A
Could the agency view live security camera footage?	N/A
Could the agency access school maps and/or building plans?	N/A
Was access to systems limited to active emergencies?	N/A

We were unable to observe the system because the agency signed its contract with Motorola Solutions in December 2024 and the system had not been fully implemented at any public safety agency or school at the time we conducted our system observations. The agency reported it could still communicate with schools during emergency incidents using other communication technologies, such as traditional 911 service.

Implementation delays

Agency officials reported that challenges connecting agency dispatch systems to the interoperable communication system caused implementation delays.

Timeline of system implementation

2024	
October	Allocated \$1,350,000 in Fund monies.
December	Signed \$1,167,727 contract with Motorola Solutions.

↓

2025	
March	Paid Motorola Solutions \$7,944.
June	Paid Motorola Solutions \$129,460.
August	Agency reported first school successfully connected to its interoperable communication system.

Future plans

The agency’s contract with Motorola Solutions expires in December 2029. The agency reported it is developing standard operating procedures for the system with input from participating public safety agencies and schools, and will continue to work with them to evaluate system performance. Agency officials reported that if Fund monies are no longer available to the agency, it will continue operating the system and determine how to split ongoing system costs between participating public safety agencies and public schools.

Recommendations to the City of Yuma Police Department

1. In conjunction with its vendor, as necessary, develop a cost estimate for ongoing system operational costs for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 and provide this information to its city council, the Legislature, and the Governor.
2. Establish a process to monitor contracts that involve the use of Fund monies to ensure the vendor complies with contract terms, including any requirements to provide regular communication or updates.

3. Establish a process for routinely testing the interoperable communication system purchased with Fund monies to ensure it is functioning across participating public safety agencies and public schools, including determining whether software updates have been installed, and whether authorized system user information is accurate and up to date and authorized system users have been trained to use system features relevant to their positions.
4. Evaluate the implementation status and functionality of its interoperable communication system and work with vendors, as applicable, to resolve functional deficiencies; if resolution is not achieved, determine what actions the agency will pursue, in consultation with legal counsel, as needed.
5. Make a plan to address the interoperable communication system's ongoing operating costs, including actions the agency will take if the State does not provide further funding for existing interoperable communication systems; provide this plan to its city council, the Legislature, and the Governor.

City of Yuma Police Department's response

Agency response: The information presented on these pages is agreed to. The audit recommendations will be implemented.

Response explanation: The City of Yuma Police Department recognizes the importance of strengthening our interoperable communication system to support school safety across Yuma County. The recommendations outlined align with our ongoing efforts to enhance accountability, system performance, and long-term sustainability. We will work with our partner agencies to develop accurate cost projections for future operational needs. Our team will establish formal processes to monitor contract compliance and ensure timely communication. Routine testing protocols will be implemented to verify system functionality, software updates, and user readiness. We will create a long-term funding plan and provide it to our governing bodies to ensure continuity of school safety communications. The Yuma Police Department remains committed to fully implementing these recommendations and improving service to our community. Chief Garrity