

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 9, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee was held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 1 p.m. in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Scott Sharp, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Greg Elkins, Co-Chair; Representative Scott Sharp, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Gerald A. Neal, Matt Nunn, and Aaron Reed; Representatives John Blanton, Lindsey Burke, Adrielle Camuel, Matt Lockett, Steve Riley, and Tom Smith.

Guests: David Barker, branch commander, Communications Branch, Kentucky State Police; Brandon Marshall, consultant, Kentucky State Police.

LRC Staff: Committee Staff Administrator William Spears; Committee Analysts Jacob Blevins, Austin Fraley, Christopher T. Hall, Taylor Johnston, Jonathan Rickett, Austin Sprinkles, Shane Stevens, Joel S. Thomas, and Holly Tracy; and Research Assistant Maegan Mohr.

Approve Minutes from January 15, 2026

Upon motion by Representative Burke and second by Representative Lockett the minutes for the January 15, 2026, meeting were approved without objection.

Statewide Emergency Responder Voice System Monthly Update

David Barker, branch commander of the Communications Branch for the Kentucky State Police (KSP) and Brandon Marshall, consultant for KSP, presented the monthly update of the Statewide Emergency Responder Voice System (SERVS). They provided information on radio tower site completion, local first responders joining the SERVS network, and remaining work on SERVS. Their presentation is available on the LOIC website.

Representative Sharp requested the master plan and timeline for the SERVS project and Mr. Marshall agreed to provide a plan.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Marshall said that there are 56 greenfield or new sites remaining to be constructed, and are represented by the yellow dots on the accompanying maps. Mr. Barker said the National Guard's Department of Military Affairs Radio System equipment is on the Kentucky Emergency Warning System towers, which are already utilized for SERVS.

In response to a question from Representative Smith, Mr. Marshall confirmed that he had retired from his project management role with SERVS and was now a consultant. Mr. Barker confirmed that he assumed Mr. Marshall's role of KSP Communication Branch manager. Mr. Marshall said SERVS is a complex project and the way it was funded in increments contributed to the way he developed plans. A contractor-led turnkey system was not an option.

Representative Smith suggested that the General Assembly be more specific when approving funding for complex projects. Mr. Marshall said if he had received all funding at once, he would not have contracted a vendor for a turnkey system because he believed that KSP had more control of where money was spent by doing the work itself.

In response to a question from Representative Blanton, Mr. Marshall said KSP needs all of the requested \$107 million for the next 4 years rather than splitting appropriations over the next two biennia. If KSP must wait until 2028 to receive the other half of the funding, there could be work delayed until the funding is received.

In response to a question from Senator Elkins, Mr. Barker said that the Department of Military Affairs equipment is on the KEWS towers owned by KSP. Mr. Marshall said KSP has considered acquiring existing towers as well as using commonwealth-owned property for the SERVS project. The new procedure for acquiring property has contributed to KSP's ability to predict a timeline.

Representative Elkins suggested tying fund distribution to goals in a project plan.

In response to a question from Senator Nunn, Mr. Marshall said KSP explored the option of a contract with Motorola for a turnkey system. Motorola is currently contracted to provide equipment and acquire property, so additional negotiation would be required for the construction portion of the project.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Marshall said that there were 65 greenfield sites at the beginning of the project and KSP has built nine towers since beginning construction in July 2019. The oldest equipment warehoused is 14 equipment racks, which contain routers, switches, radios, transmitters, receivers, and power supplies for Phase II which should be installed by the end of 2026. Changes in site acquisition and construction processes planned in collaboration with the Finance and Administration Cabinet have led to progress for the project. The existing processes were not conducive to executing the SERVS project efficiently.

In response to a question from Representative Lockett, Mr. Marshall said that he is not concerned about tornadoes destroying towers but is concerned about the possibility of earthquakes damaging towers. Replacement equipment for SERVS would be incompatible with the existing system. He recommends updating the system in small increments every 5 years to avoid replacing the system again in 20 years.

In response to a question from Senator Nunn, Mr. Marshall confirmed that he is a contractor for the SERVS project, but he was working for KSP before this meeting. He is paid hourly.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Representative Lockett and second by Senator Reed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.