



5 Steps to Affordably Grow into a New Fire Station Alerting System

PURVIS SYSTEMS

Technology Solutions with Peace of Mind

In today's environment, counties, cities, and towns throughout the US are faced with the challenge of doing more with less, especially as it relates to public safety. Financial challenges persist while call volumes increase and the need to deliver dispatch, fire, and EMS services are more critical than ever. A modern fire station alerting system can play an important role in helping 911 centers, fire departments, and EMS agencies meet this increased demand and improve response times without sacrificing speed or quality. Conversely, in your life-critical line of work, an outdated alerting system can hinder your ability to respond quickly, effectively, and safely.

So how can your agency tackle the replacement of a failing or outdated alerting system with a limited budget? Follow these 5 key steps to help your agency affordably grow into a new, more reliable, and effective alerting system.

1. Focus on what you require today

With today's modern station alerting systems, there are many advanced features and options available that can make your selection process seem overwhelming. If you have a limited budget, it's worth considering what your agency needs right now rather than focusing too much on advanced features.

Maybe you don't need the most advanced system to start. Rather than waiting for additional budget before you purchase a more robust and expensive solution, consider an upgrade to a basic, modern system that meets the specific needs of your agency today and doesn't break the bank.

It's important to identify your starting point based on your organization's current and unique needs, system requirements, schedule, and budget. Particularly in a regional setting, a common starting point for a base alerting system is an automated voice dispatch solution connected with your computer aided dispatch system (CAD) at the dispatch center. At a much lower startup price point, this provides you with automated voice and tone alerting over the radio network, as well as the ability to alert over SMS,



mobile app, and email, giving you a solution that supports fully automated alerting of all fire/rescue agencies dispatched by your dispatch center. From there you can add station equipment in one, multiple, or all stations over time, enabling IP alerting to the stations and creating redundancy with ongoing radio alerts.

At the station, you can start small by integrating new equipment within your existing infrastructure. Select a partner who will work closely with you to align a solution to your current budget constraints and specific needs.

2. Ensure your system can scale and grow to meet your desired endpoint over time

You don't need to wait for additional budget to purchase a basic solution, but you do need to ensure the system you choose is modular, allowing for reconfiguration and expansion as needs, budgets, and desires change. Your system should be able to adapt to ultimately meet your desired functionality without requiring extensive hardware and software changes. Once installed, your fire station alerting



solution will likely be in operation for many years. Keeping the future in mind is critical to making a good investment decision. Even if you don't have the funding to activate specific features today, you will want to invest in a system that will be capable of supporting expansion down the road.

Your system should also be software-based and tailored to meet your unique needs. One department might need several different types of alerting devices - even for a single station. It is important to note that even if you're starting with the implementation of a basic fire station alerting solution, you should have the flexibility to choose the best devices and features for your application. Advanced features such as zoning, ramped lighting, dorm remotes, automated turnout time tracking, and in-station mapping on display boards can all be added down the road. You need assurance that your fire station alerting solution will adapt and grow with you as your requirements change.

A very large organization may start by enabling a single station or a subset of the department before deploying more broadly across multiple stations and departments, or they may choose to start with fewer alerting options and expand to more over time. Flexible deployment architecture can help ensure a streamlined initial project, while enabling the implementation to scale to any size needed.



3. Use off-the-shelf hardware for long-term flexibility to add new features and system capabilities

A good alerting system will make use of standard, off-the-shelf equipment and in-station hardware. This makes upgrades easier and more cost-effective over the course of the system's lifetime and allows for more readily available replacements, which is imperative in life-critical environments.

Nonproprietary equipment can easily integrate with existing systems that already reside within your fire stations, such as the PA system, lighting systems, door controls, etc. This allows you to take advantage of the speed and reliability associated with a modern IP based station alerting system, while leveraging your existing infrastructure to minimize the initial investment.

Additionally, using nonproprietary hardware means you're not locked into a single vendor. Select a fire station alerting vendor that utilizes off-the-shelf components so you have the flexibility to purchase items like monitors, servers, and other IT equipment through any preferred pricing contracts you may already have in place.

4. Consider cooperative purchasing contracts and lease finance options to reduce upfront costs

National cooperative purchasing contract vehicles, such as Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) contract, offer competitively bid purchasing contracts that can reduce the time and labor required for your agency to purchase a new system, while offering discounted pricing. By selecting a partner with an existing cooperative purchasing contract option, you will accelerate your agency's purchase, which allows you to start benefiting from a new alerting system more quickly and affordably.

Additionally, if financing a new system is an option your agency is willing to consider, look for a vendor that offers Tax Exempt Municipal Lease-Purchase Financing. At the end of the Lease-Purchase term, your agency will own the system.

5. Select a collaborative partner who will work with you, not a transactional vendor

Perhaps more important than any single system component or feature is the partner you choose to work with. Look for a partner who has a demonstrable attitude of service and proven experience supporting complex and vital systems. Seek out a partner that will do whatever it takes—from providing preventative

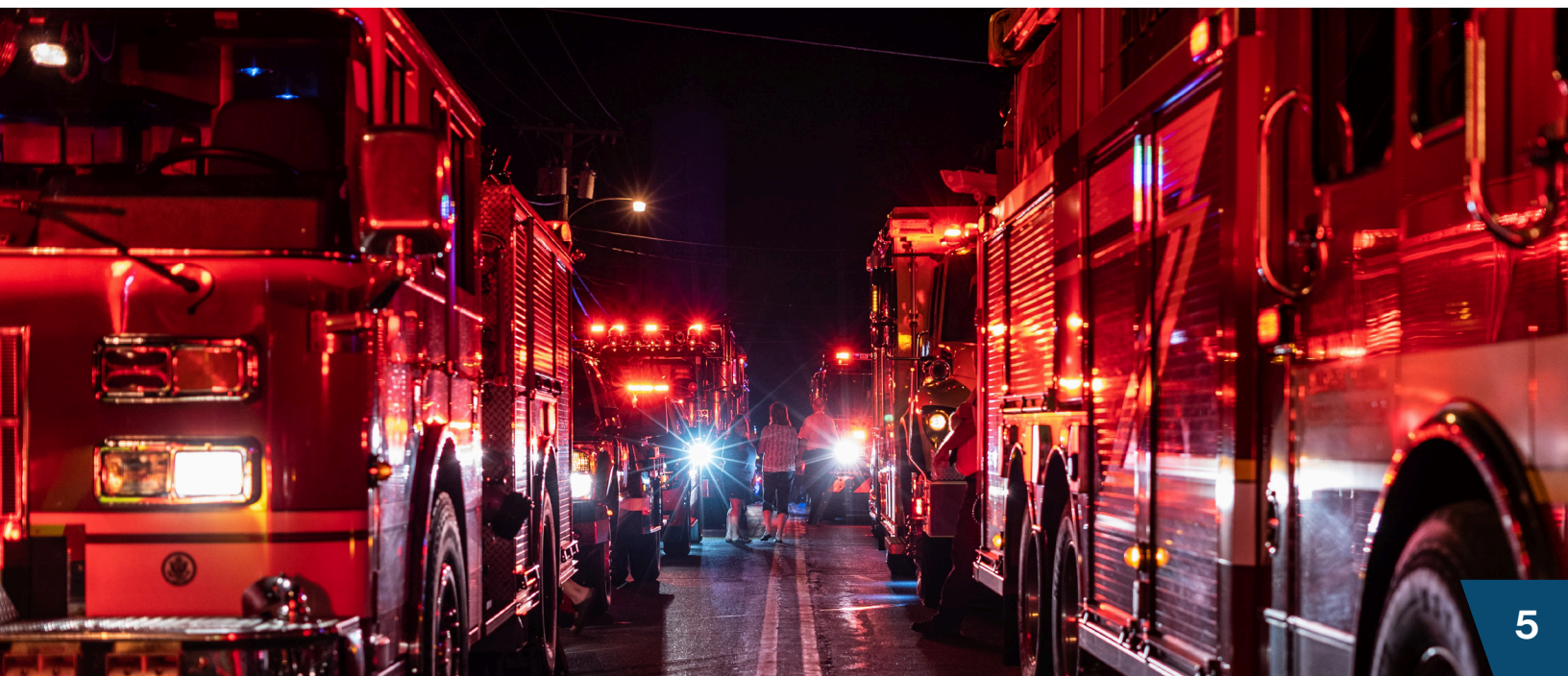
maintenance and repair, to protecting your investment, and supporting you whenever and wherever you need it. Ensuring your systems operate seamlessly 24/7/365 lets you focus on the #1 priority: protecting the lives and property of the communities you serve.

A vendor that desires a partnership with your agency won't try to sell you every bell and whistle, but rather work closely with you to design a solution that meets your immediate needs and budget requirements. At the same time, they should be able to provide you with a clear path to upgrade your system over time.

In addition to proven experience, your partner of choice should be financially stable. Request audited financials to ensure your partner has adequate resources and power to stay for the long haul.

Look for a partner that provides:

- A skilled, reliable, responsive team with deep client relationships, domain knowledge, and skills
- A time-tested approach, sustainable processes, and exceptional customer service
- 24/7/365 support, infrastructure, and capabilities
- A proven record of high-value support
- Fully equipped maintenance facilities
- A proven methodology for planning, implementation, testing, and customer training
- A breadth of capabilities, including system integration, software and hardware development, engineering, field services, call center, and more



PURVIS Systems' Fire Station Alerting System™ (FSAS)

PURVIS' Fire Station Alerting System™ is an IP-based alerting solution designed to automate the process of alerting fire and rescue personnel, enhance communications, and decrease response times. Its rich features and functionality proactively support the day-to-day operations and environmental health, comfort, and safety of first responders. Our system integrates seamlessly with your community's computer-aided dispatch system (CAD) and is able to automatically and instantaneously deliver incident details in a way that is tailored to the needs of fire and rescue personnel.

For more information, please visit PURVIS.com/what-we-do/fire-station-alerting/.

About PURVIS

PURVIS is a technology solutions partner with 45+ years of experience in the public safety industry that develops, implements, modernizes, and maintains life-critical solutions for fire departments, dispatch centers, and emergency medical services.

Seconds save lives. We understand the critical role technology plays in response times and make it our mission to implement solutions that empower you to handle life-critical situations quickly and safely. As your trusted partner, we tailor technology solutions to your organization and provide expertise, training, and around-the-clock support that you can count on. We work to solve challenges, so you can focus on protecting life, safety, and property.

PURVIS Systems has long-term engineering and technical services contracts with clients such as:

- New York City Fire Department (FDNY)
- Boston Fire Department
- District of Columbia
- Charleston County, SC
- DuPage County, IL
- Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD)
- Kitsap County, WA
- Ft. Collins, CO
- Williamson County, TX
- Jacksonville, FL
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Various other government establishments

If you have questions about what to look for in an FSAS solution or partner, let's connect. Our team of public safety industry veterans is ready and willing to help answer any questions and steer you in the right direction.

For more information, please visit PURVIS.com/what-we-do/fire-station-alerting/.