



# 3 Strategies to Prevent Project Delays and Mitigate Budget Risks

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## PURVIS SYSTEMS

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*Technology Solutions with Peace of Mind*

### Introduction

Station alerting projects are important undertakings that can pose challenges for departments of all sizes. There are several project factors that can cause incremental increases to the project timeline and budget challenges that may seem insignificant in a given moment, but add up over the course of the project. However, by working with an experienced station alerting provider and following a proven project approach, departments can achieve the station alerting outcomes they desire without sacrificing quality or exceeding budget limitations. Here are 3 proven strategies to help keep your project on track from Day 1.

### 1. Clearly Define Project Objectives

Perhaps the most important step in any complex project is to clearly define your project objectives, which refer to the specific outcomes you want to achieve with your station alerting solution. What specific challenges do you need to address with a new system?

- Are you having difficulty getting new equipment to work with legacy alerting components?
- Do you need to decrease turnout times and improve operational efficiency?
- Are you hoping to enhance responder safety and well-being?
- Are you looking to streamline communications and better manage/allocate your resources?
- Are you building a new station and want to ensure integration with other stations?

Clearly agreeing upon and defining your station alerting objectives can help mitigate the risk of budget creep mid-project by ensuring stakeholders aren't adding features and functionality to your solution that may not be necessary to achieve your goals. Furthermore, well-defined project objectives can mitigate timeline risks by enabling project managers to make decisions quickly if questions arise. Remember, quality station alerting solutions are highly scalable, which means you can always add upgrades down the road.

### 2. Fully Clarify Project Scope

The scope of a station alerting project defines the specific work that needs to be done in order to deliver your objectives. A well-defined scope helps establish clear roles and responsibilities, facilitate effective communication, and prevent misunderstandings. Project objectives, budget, and desired timeline are frequently considered up front, but there are a few often overlooked factors that relate heavily to budget and timeline when it comes to a station alerting project's scope:

### ■ **Resource Availability**

Beyond the components of the station alerting solution itself, you should also identify the personnel (their roles & responsibilities), equipment, and materials needed to complete the project to ensure their availability for the duration of your project.

### ■ **Infrastructure**

Do not overlook updates that may be necessary to existing infrastructure, such as ensuring the proper network coverage and routing is in place for your new system or providing power and electrical outlets for new components. Make sure these infrastructure costs are factored into your overall budget.

### ■ **External Dependencies**

Station alerting solutions often depend on third parties for integration with CAD and/or radio systems. Contact your existing vendors to identify these integration costs up front and be sure to factor the costs and the time needed for integration development and implementation into your project scope.

Considering and clearly defining these factors as part of your overall scope can help avoid both budget surprises and timeline delays during the course of your project.

## 3. Identify Internal and External Stakeholders

There are multiple stakeholders in any station alerting project, and getting everyone involved in discussions as early as possible can help to mitigate project risks. Consider the following:

### ■ **Dispatchers, Firefighters, Chiefs, and Officers**

The primary users of the system will certainly have strong opinions about the features they feel would be most useful in your station alerting solution.

### ■ **IT, Radio, and Facility Personnel**

The individuals responsible for helping to integrate and manage your new system within your existing environment will have important insight into what is needed for integration and ongoing service.

### ■ **3rd Party Vendors - Such as CAD and Radio**

The providers of your existing hardware and software solutions that your new alerting system will interface with need to be involved to understand your integration needs and provide the necessary solutions on their end to ensure seamless integration during the project.

### ■ Finance, Procurement, and other Government Officials

Those who are responsible for providing administrative support to the fire department play an important role in helping you fund and purchase your new system.

Identifying all internal and external stakeholders early in the process will help to mitigate project risks that have the potential to lead to project delays and/or budget challenges. Additionally, understanding the needs and expectations of all stakeholders enables project managers to make informed, goal-based decisions.

## Conclusion

Like any large undertaking, station alerting projects are most successful when thoughtfully planned out in advance. By defining project objectives, fully clarifying project scope, and identifying and engaging with all stakeholders, departments can ensure a seamless implementation that is aligned with expectations, budget, and schedule.

If you are looking for a partner with the expertise and industry knowledge to help you successfully navigate your station alerting system project to achieve your project objectives, contact PURVIS.

## 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 about our alerting system, please visit <https://www.purvis.com/alerting-solutions/>



### About PURVIS

PURVIS is a technology solutions partner with 50 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.

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

- New York City Fire Department (FDNY)
- Montreal, Canada
- Boston Fire Department
- Ft. Collins, CO
- District of Columbia
- Williamson County, TX
- Charleston County, SC
- Jacksonville, FL
- DuPage County, IL
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Reno, NV
- Various other government establishments

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**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](https://www.purvis.com)**