

A NEED FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION

Pottawattamie County Sheriff Jeff Danker spoke to Club members about a project to improve communications between county and city law enforcement and fire protection departments. Sheriff Danker noted that county and Council Bluffs units currently use different radio frequencies, which does not allow direct and timely communication. A grant from the federal Homeland Security Agency is available toward installing an integrated communication system, Sheriff Danker explained. While it is not enough to pay the entire cost, it does provide motivation to plan a better communication system. Furthermore, Sheriff Danker stated, the current county system is aged and inadequate and new FCC rules require a future change in the available transmission frequency bands that will make the current radios unusable. According to Sheriff Danker, it is a big task with multiple objectives, but some day all governmental entities should be able to communicate more effectively, especially during emergencies.