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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Martin County Hosts Ribbon-Cutting for Its New Regional 9-1-1 Communications Center

WILLIAMSTON, NC – Martin County held a ribbon-cutting for its new Martin County Regional Communications Center on September 18th. The project involves the relocation of the Martin County 9-1-1 Communications Center from the courthouse to a county-owned site at 1560 Prison Camp Road. It also involves the procurement and installation of Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies that will ensure 9-1-1 is meeting the needs of all citizens quickly and efficiently.

The new building and technology were funded 100% through a grant from the NC 9-1-1 Board and involves the construction of a 5,100 square foot facility and technology that will serve as the primary 9-1-1 center for Martin County and a back-up for Bertie and Pasquotank Counties.

Back-up 9-1-1 communications plans are required by a state law (House Bill 797), which passed in 2014. Bertie and Pasquotank Counties have dedicated space in the new facility if the primary 9-1-1 facilities in their communities are not operational, due to weather events, power outage or other similar circumstances.

Eric Boyette, State CIO and secretary of the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (DIT), who also serves as the Chairman of the NC 9-1-1 Board, spoke at the ribbon-cutting and said, “We’re in the digital age, and technology is critical to 9-1-1 services.” He added, “As fewer people are using landlines, and enhanced capabilities are available to digitize and transmit information, DIT is able to help 9-1-1 centers adapt through new technologies, like NextGen 9-1-1, and we are so proud we could build that partnership with the Martin County Regional Communications Center.”

In 2016, the NC 9-1-1 Board awarded a grant of \$4,315,437 to Martin County to fund the construction of the center. The original grant involved the center serving as a back-up and training center for Bertie County. The Board of Commissioners approved the addition of

Pasquotank County to the project in 2017. Pasquotank County has a 9-1-1 grant for \$1,010,779. Part of Pasquotank's grant helped pay for the Martin County building project, and the rest paid for some of Pasquotank's other technology needs.

Bids for the project came in higher than anticipated. Martin County requested \$880,878 in additional funding from the NC 9-1-1 Board, and the request was approved. Therefore, the total for the Martin County grant was \$5,196,315.

Mission Critical Partners was Martin County's technology consultant throughout the grant application, design and construction project. The Schrader Group was the architectural firm that designed the building and oversaw construction. A.R. Chesson was the general contractor. Site work began on June 18, 2018.

Tommy Bowen, Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you to the NC 9-1-1 Board for providing the grant funds to build this facility. I also thank our partners in Bertie and Pasquotank County. Please consider this as your 'home away from home' in Martin County."

"I am humbled and honored to see the outpouring of support from our community and region during the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new Regional Communications Center. We look forward to the role this facility will play in public safety for the citizens of the County and region," stated Jason Steward, Martin County Communications Director.

Additional Information about the NC 9-1-1 Board:

The NC 9-1-1 Board oversees 9-1-1 service in the state. It was created to consolidate North Carolina's Enhanced 9-1-1 system under a single board with a uniform 911 service charge to integrate the state's 9-1-1 system, enhance efficiency and accountability, and create a level competitive playing field among voice communication technologies. The State of North Carolina charges a 9-1-1 surcharge to help fund 9-1-1 technology needs across the state. These fees are collected through customer phone bills. The 9-1-1 Board manages all revenues paid into the 9-1-1 Fund, establishes procedures for disbursement of funds, and advises all voice communications service providers and eligible counties of such procedures. The current surcharge is 65-cents per month.

(Photos attached. Photo of single speaker is NC DIT Secretary and NC 9-1-1 Board Chairman Eric Boyette.)

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