

The Mt. Juliet Police Department's new communication system went live Friday afternoon.

The previous system did not provide adequate coverage for Mt. Juliet city limits, so the City Commissioners approved the move to a \$1.2 million new digital, P25 compliant interoperable communication system. Mt. Juliet is the first city in the county to upgrade to such a system. A partnership and interlocal agreement with Metro-Nashville and Middle Tennessee Electric helped bring the cost down.

"One of our main priorities was to ensure our emergency responders had adequate communications so they could respond and deal with incidents effectively," stated Police Chief James Hambrick in a statement Thursday. "It's exciting to see this project come to fruition, and I am thankful for the support from our city leaders who understand our mission of protecting such a great community."

MJPD had incidents that brought to light the need for the equipment, including a reserve police officer having a heart attack and not being able to call for help. Also, officers pursued armed robbery suspects into Metro-Nashville and ended up chasing suspects on foot. They did not have the ability to communicate with Metro-Nashville Police during the chase, and couldn't speak to dispatch as well.

The Mt. Juliet Fire Department, which began operations Monday, will also be able to use the system. A system dedication will be held in late October.