COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Fire and Emergency Services	Presenter(s):	M. Allen McCullough/Pete Nelms
Meeting Date:	Thursday, May 12, 2011	Type of Request:	Consent

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of staff's request to donate a 40 foot radio antenna that is no longer in service by the County to the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group.

Background/History/Details:

The local (ARES) Amateur Radio Emergency Service has requested the county donate a radio tower that was taken out of service. This antenna fell during a wind event that was storm related. The antenna is no longer needed at Station 2 and was deemed as surplus with a value of less than $200. The height of this antenna is approximately 40 feet. ARES has stated that the antenna will be used to support the radio effort of the group and have a direct benefit for Emergency Management and the SkyWarn Program of the National Weather Service. These segments would be added to an existing amateur radio station.

The local ARES has long been a partner in our community with our public safety agencies and the National Weather Service and make themselves available to assist in anyway possible by providing auxiliary communications capabilities during times of violent weather events.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Motion to approve staff's request to donate a 40-foot radio antenna that is no longer in service by the County to the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	No	If so, when?	
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Lynn Bianco, CEM-GA.
Assistant Emergency Coordinator,
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Captain Pete Nelms, CEM
Fayette County Emergency Management Coordinator
140 Stonewall Ave., Suite 214
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear Pete,

On behalf of the Fayette County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), I request your consideration in donating the remains of the communications tower that fell at County Fire Station 2 to Fayette ARES. As you know, we do a great deal of work with the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program. This tower would be a good fit to extend our radio coverage at the NWS in support of emergency management activities in Fayette County and throughout the region.

Please keep us in mind as you determine the fate of the tower.

Respectfully,

Lynn Bianco, CEM-GA.