"We needed a transition plan that would work with our existing LMR system and would smartly put us on the path to FirstNet."

T.J. Martin, Communications Coordinator for the Parma Fire Department

LMR network coupled with the endless possibilities provided by the LTE network. We're able to integrate biometric monitors to watch the health of fire fighters and use GPS to coordinate fire response in-building. Everything is seamless and we did not break the bank or scrap our existing network."

Close was also instrumental in providing Parma emergency medical technicians with the ability to conduct video conferences between ambulances and emergency rooms. Parma installed routers in vehicles and equipped personnel at both ends with tablets that could share video and data, enabling ER doctors and technicians to ready equipment for critically-injured patients before they arrived at the hospital.

Now, with the access to FirstNet, Parma will have even more technology-enabled capabilities across the entire city.

"I'm a believer in keeping up with the pace of technology," said Martin. "Anything that gives us the ability to integrate future capabilities using our existing infrastructure is a win for us and a huge win for our citizens, who ultimately benefit as we deploy new technology for law enforcement, fire response, or medical personnel."

Cleveland Communications helped City of Parma complete the project by testing that yielded no issues.

"I attribute some of the success to choosing the right partners. L3Harris and Cleveland Communications are extremely innovative in their approach to technology and are committed to continuously delivering new capabilities," said Martin.

Beyond the benefits to end users, connection to AT&T FirstNet gives Parma the interoperability they were seeking at the outset of this project. By leveraging the Parma VIDA core, the neighboring communities of Medina County and City of Elyria are able to access FirstNet through their multi-site P25 networks.

"More interoperability across our broader region and across the whole state of Ohio will mean better services to the public," added Martin. "That level of forward thinking is good government that is made possible when industry and agencies work together to leap technical hurdles. The challenges facing us in Parma are not unique to our city. No doubt there are hundreds of folks just like me who are on the hook to make miracles happen with their networks. The great news is there's now a proven playbook for bringing public safety networks into the future.