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## IDAS™ – The Right Choice for Crestview School District



from October 2009

To help the Crestview School District of Ashland, Ohio, a great regional partnership formed between Edward Rauck, BearCom Wireless Account Executive; John Williams, Icom RF Marketing Representative, and Ken Floor, Crestview School Bus Fleet Manager and local volunteer firefighter that has experience with Icom products.

“Ken has a lot of experience with many types of two-way radios,” said Rauck. “That really helped with the process and he is a big Icom fan.”

Crestview needed to replace their 25 year-old analog system. However, to replace it with the same manufacturer's digital equipment, the price would be prohibitively expensive. They found a better solution that cost a third less with Icom.

“Crestview has an unusual district configuration,” said Rauck. All three campuses are located right next to each other: Grades Pre-K-3, Grades 4-8, and Grades 9-12 for a total of 1,300 students. “We set them up with 18 F5061D mobiles for their school buses,” he said. “Their rural bus routes required a repeater and the IC-FR5000 was the perfect choice. They now have better coverage than with the old system.”

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***The value of the IDAS™ system is that it's designed as an integrated system with features like selective call, group call, and talk group ID; emergency call; call alert; call log; plus more.***

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The district has about 160 employees and they needed 30 F3161D portables for administration, logistics, maintenance, events, and security.

For programming, each campus has their own talk group. Rauck said, “The system is flexible so each department has their own group too.”

“The audio quality of the digital system is much better than their old system and they are really happy with the features and ease of use of the new radios.” said Rauck. “Installation was a snap. Our office is about 3 hours from their location so we used a PC to



program all the units and sent them to the school district. Ken did the mobile installations in the buses and trained the users.”

Rauck went on to point out, “The F3161D digital portables are really rugged and can handle the Ohio weather. They're great for the school environment.”

“The system was up and running just before the school year started and things have been going great,” said Rauck. “That's really important. Schools need reliable communication. They have an important job and Icom two-way radios help them work together.”

There haven't been any problems with the system or radios, but if there were, Rauck said the warranty support from Icom is excellent in the few times they've had to use it.

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