St. Croix County Emergency Communications

Mobile Communications and Command Vehicle
St. Croix County built their 1st mobile communications van in 1983 out of a Chevy delivery step-van. It was utilized many times for on-scene communications and command in and out of the county for support of Police, Fire and EMS agencies.
Most notably, it was requested by the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management Law Enforcement Division to help with communications during the Native American spear fishing seasons in Northern Wisconsin in the late 1980’s.
It was also used heavily in Somerset for the large concerts that brought 20,000 people to town at a time.

And for the infamous Somerset tire fire where a million tires burned for weeks. The Comm. Van was on site and operational for 114 hours straight.
Most recently, the Comm. Van was set up as a command post in Hammond to assist with communications after the tornado struck.
The Comm Van was designed for on-scene close-in communications and support. When agencies are utilizing portable radios with low power, signals can be difficult to copy at the Dispatch Center in Hudson.

We then can bring communications to the scene in a mobile vehicle that has the capability of over 2500 frequencies, telephone systems, climate control, horizontal writing surfaces, bathroom facilities, kitchen facilities and a fresh water supply.
One of the most important aspects of the mobilization of the Comm Van would be the ability to have a dedicated Dispatcher available to the incident.

This not only allows the scene commanders easy accessibility to the Dispatcher but also relieves the Dispatch Center in Hudson of the excessive radio traffic load.