Here are the instructions to modify the vertex Vx-500 to be Field Programmable. This mod works on my radio, however, is done at the risk of the person doing the modification. This author is in no way responsible for damage to your radio from the improper or proper modification of the radio

To modify the vx-500 to be field programmable, carefully remove the rubber PTT cover. Observe the three buttons on the pc board. Under the vertical button, you will notice two copper pads. Carefully, Place a small bead of solder across the two copper beads. Place the rubber PTT cover back into place.

To put the radio into programming mode, hold down the s/dw button and the B button while turning the radio on. Use the PTT button to change fields. Press the Monitor button to edit Fields. Use the A and B Button to Change the data for each Field(ie. Freq, Ctcss tones) After selecting the proper data for the field press the s/dw button to save the data. Turn the radio off to remove it from programming mode.

Field 1-14 are channel specific fields. Field 20 and up are common fields for all channels