

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: August 10, 1998

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Motorola Inc. for the phased purchase of Astro Digital Radio systems in an amount not to exceed \$246,000 for phase two of the six phase technology migration plan. The proposed contract is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002, contracts for labor, material, supplies, or services available from only one vendor.

It is further recommended that this contract be granted a partial exemption from the provisions of the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance, P.M.C. 4.09 pursuant to section 4.09.060(B)(1) contracts for labor, material, supplies, or services available from a sole source.

BACKGROUND

In December of 1997, Council approved the expenditure of a portion of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds to complete the first phase of upgrading the police radio system. The recommended action in this agenda report awards the contract to implement the expenditure of additional Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds for phase two of radio systems upgrade.

In 1988, an upgrade to the police and fire radio systems was done to standardize emergency response radio equipment by utilizing Motorola radio equipment. Now it is necessary to begin a phased migration to replace our radio equipment to digital capable radios. The reason for the migration to digital is due to changes that the Federal Communications Commission has made relative to radio spectrum availability. The new FCC regulations will become effective in 2003.

Currently all radio frequency users operate in an analog mode which has frequency width of 25 megahertz and provides a limited number of available frequencies. By utilizing digitized radio frequencies, the bandwidth will reduce to 12.5 megahertz and the number of available frequencies will increase substantially thus providing additional radio spectrum. The additional spectrum will be made available to local governments, on a need basis, and any "extra spectrum" will be sold to other users.

With the ever-growing demand for radio spectrum and, more importantly, changes in technology, the FCC has found it necessary to mandate the switch to digital frequencies and set 2003 as the deadline for full conversion to digital.

The projected cost for converting the police department to a digital system, over the next five years, is approximately one million dollars. Since funds do not exist to make this change at one time, we must migrate to a digital system in phases while we continue to operate on our existing system.

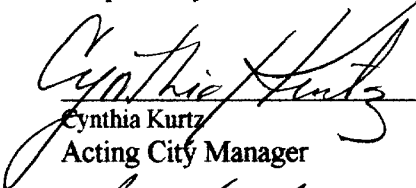
This means that Motorola will continue to be our vendor of choice. Just as it was necessary to consolidate our radio equipment under one vendor for compatibility and standardization in 1988 we must do the same today. We are unable to migrate to digital using another vendor and maintain our current system with Motorola.

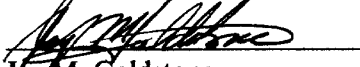
This second phase of the migration is to up grade the remaining six police frequency (main and stand-by) radio repeaters to digital capability, the final three dispatch 911/call taker positions and the Records Section Consoles. The cost for phase two is approximately \$246,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

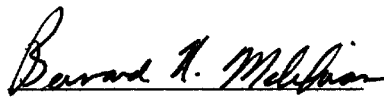
Funding for this phase of the upgrade process is available from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds in account # 300 442 in the amount of \$246,000.

Respectfully submitted,

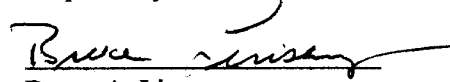

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