

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: November 15, 1999

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Authorization to Issue a Purchase Order for a Not To Exceed Amount of \$79,710.00 to Purchase Digital Motorola Mobile Radios for the Pasadena Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Purchasing Administrator to issue a purchase order to Motorola Communications and Electronics Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$79,710.00 for the purchase of twenty-one Motorola Mobile radios for the Pasadena Police Department. The proposed purchase is exempt from competitive bidding, pursuant to City Charter section 1002 (C) contracts for labor, material, supplies or services available from only one vendor.

It is further recommended that the City Council grant this contract a partial exemption (vendor outreach only) from the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance pursuant to P.M.C. 4.09.060(C), contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND

The Police Department is in need of purchasing twenty-one digital capable mobile radios for the new 1999 patrol and investigation vehicles and motorcycles due to a change mandated by FCC regulations. With the ever-growing demand for radio spectrum and, more importantly, changes in technology, the FCC has found it necessary to mandate a switch from analog to digital frequencies and set the year 2003 as the dead line for full conversion to digital.

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

In 1988, bids were solicited to upgrade to the police and fire radio systems in order to standardize emergency response radio equipment. Motorola was the successful bidder. In order to maintain 100% compatibility of our essential public safety communication equipment and because of the benefits of standardization in our radio equipment, the City has continued to purchase Motorola radio equipment since 1988.

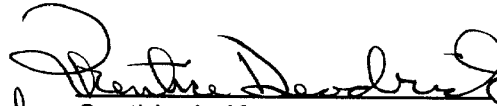
The projected cost for converting the Police Department to a digital system, over a five-year period, is approximately one million dollars. Since funds do not exist to make this change at one time, staff recommended the migration to a digital system in phases while continuing to operate on the existing system.

In 1997, The Police Department began a system upgrade to migrate from analog to digital. The base stations and repeaters, as well as the communications center of the police radio system has been purchased and put in place. The build out of the mobile fleet is the final phase of the upgrade. There are no other manufacturers that build digital radio equipment compatible with Motorola Astro. Therefore, it is necessary that the mobile radio equipment be Motorola Astro narrow band digital FM radios in order to maintain full compatibility with the digital system currently in place. The mobile radio upgrade began with the sixteen police vehicles purchased in 1998 and will continue with the 1999 police vehicles. The upgrade will continue for each subsequent year until the conversion process is complete.

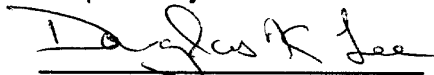
FISCAL IMPACT

This equipment is a budgeted replacement and sufficient funds are available in the Equipment Replacement Fund, account #766300

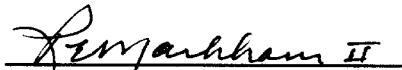
Respectfully submitted,


for Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager


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