



AGENDA MEMO
8/1/2017 Agenda

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Randy Howell

SUBJECT: Consider approval of contract for radio consultant and cost share agreement with the Town of Highland Park

BACKGROUND:

Staff has identified the need to address concerns related to the aging and condition of our existing public safety radio system. The City's communications equipment provides the critical link for public safety employees to the Public Safety Dispatch Center and between each other in the field. This equipment is also relied upon to provide communications with outside agencies when providing or receiving mutual aid during large scale emergencies or disaster events. Critical equipment components of the City's current system will reach its projected life expectancy in 2018.

In anticipation of this happening, capital funds have been allocated to address this need. The amount allocated has been based on the expectation of the City of Dallas building a new radio system and our City becoming a subscriber. Progress being made by Dallas to accomplish this task has waned and the estimate of completion is projected to be in excess of three years. While there are other subscriber systems potentially available, each has limitations and associated costs in providing a system that will meet our needs.

This early work of seeking partnerships led staff to pursue discussions with the Town of Highland Park (Town), which is also planning a new radio system. Extending that concept would include the idea of including SMU and HPISD as participating partners, or subscribers, to a new system.

Based on the technical complexity and the critical functionality of the system, staff at both the City and the Town believe that it is necessary to retain a consultant that will provide services to both agencies. These services would include: assistance with the development of the cost share agreement, assessment of the status of our existing equipment, providing guidance in determining viable options available to meet our needs while being cost efficient and value minded, and, once determined as best option, oversee the purchase, installation and testing of the installed system.

Approval of this item will allow staff to move forward with engaging the services provided by the radio consultant and allow the execution of the cost sharing agreement with the

Town to cover payment for services rendered. As stated in the agreement, the consultant fee is approximately \$85,000 with the City and Town sharing this expense on a 50/50 basis, each entity paying (50%) of the cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends concurrence by the council to proceed with the selection of Black & Veatch, Inc. to provide radio consulting services and the approval to execute the cost sharing agreement with the Town of Highland Park.