



AGENDA MEMO

6/18/2019 Agenda

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Randy Howell

SUBJECT: Motorola Contract

BACKGROUND:

At the October 2, 2018 city council meeting, a briefing was provided to council regarding the replacement of the existing public safety radio system. This briefing provided an overview of the condition of our current system, plans for funding, the rationale creating a joint system with Highland Park, the utilization of a consultant for needed assistance, and the intention to join the Garland/Mesquite (GMRS) radio system to allow use of their switch.

To assist council, the previous memorandum is included as follows:

When public safety services are unable to communicate reliably, they cannot safely or effectively function or perform the critical services the public has entrusted it to provide. Many critical components of our current 800MHz radio system are over 20 years old and not able to be serviced by Motorola. The system is now outdated, reached the end of its service life and is experiencing an increase frequency of system failure. It also has inherent clarity, coverage and building penetration problems resulting in areas of our City where dispatchers and first responders are unable to communicate.

In 2015 the Capital Projects Committee approved the annual incremental allocation of funding necessary to upgrade the public safety communications system, including the dispatch center, police/fire department radios, antenna towers, and repeater systems. At roughly the same time period, the Town of Highland Park had also identified a need to upgrade their DPS radio system. Coupling this common need, the City and Town began a collaborative effort to find a single solution for both of its communication needs.

The task of upgrading the two agencies to a robust digital radio system began in 2017 with the hiring of a nationally recognized radio consultant, Black & Veatch.

The consultant's work evaluated the City and Town pursuing either (1) a jointly owned system, (2) entering into a subscription service, or (3) pursuing a partnership with other existing P25 systems.

P25 is a standards development process for the design, manufacture, and evaluation of interoperable digital two-way land mobile radio systems communications products created by and for public safety professionals. The P25 standard is a critical component to achieve communications interoperability among surrounding public safety agencies. Both Federal and State guidelines set an objective that radio communications for all first responders be P25 compliant. Achieving this standard also allows direct communications with agencies providing mutual aid to our city in the case of a mass casualty incident and/or disaster.

The study recommends partnering with Garland-Mesquite-Rowlett-Sachse (GMRS) and has concluded that do so is the most cost effective way of meeting our needs. This allows purchasing of Motorola system components and equipment at previously bid GMRS contracted pricing. The report's findings recommend that University Park and Highland Park partner in the installation of 3 cell sites, upgrading all the dispatch center consoles, upgrading all the City's emergency vehicles and personnel with Motorola radio equipment, and updating the infrastructure to integrate into the GMRS system. Finally, by tying the Park Cities cell site to the GMRS system, all partner cities will gain increased coverage for their current communication needs.

Funding for the related purchases and operating agreements is provided through a combination of capital funds and DART subsidies. University Park's annual maintenance and software upgrades initial cost is estimated at roughly \$270,000, with the total system acquisition cost for our City at approximately \$3.8 million.

Pending council direction, additional related agenda items will be presented in the near future to include (1) approval of an agreement for the City to become a member in the GMRS system (2) approval of the contract with Motorola, and (3) approval of necessary Inter-local Agreements (ILAs) with GMRS and the Town of Highland Park.

CURRENT

The acceptance letter from GMRS has been received and the interlocal agreements are being submitted for approval.

Attached is the Motorola contract that includes base price for the University Park radio infrastructure, five years of system maintenance, mobile and portable radios, installation and performance bonds.

The project total is \$4,402,425 and the contract total is \$6,158,512. Project completion is estimated at between 12 and 14 months from issuance of P.O.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of contract to allow purchase of public safety radio system.