

Legislation Text

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CC MEETING: June 18, 2013

DATE: June 11, 2013

TO: Leonard Martin, City Manager

FROM: Lon Fairless, Information Technology Director

Discuss **Shared Purchase of New Public Safety Radio System.**

BACKGROUND:

The Metrocrest cities of Addison, Carrollton and Farmers Branch share an 800MHz trunked analog simulcast two-way radio system for Public Safety. The City of Coppell is currently served by a similar system operated by the City of Lewisville. The system equipment manufacturer, Motorola, announced the end of lifecycle for manufacturing equipment for the existing system in 2011, with support ending in 2018 as radio technology migrates from analog to digital.

The four Metrocrest cities have shared costs in engaging RCC Consultants, Inc. to evaluate, and provide options and recommendations for Public Safety radio communication services. The final report was provided in September of 2011 with a recommendation to replace the existing system with a new digital radio system that complies with a newly established nationally-recognized standard commonly referred to as a P25 system.

The four cities then engaged RCC to assist with an RFP process for a P25 radio system, including vendor selection and contractor negotiations. The City of Farmers Branch handled the RFP process. There were three responders to the RFP: EF Johnson Technologies, Harris Corporation and Motorola Solutions. Based on the RFP process and stated evaluation criteria, Harris and Motorola were considered finalists, with Harris selected to engage in contract negotiations to determine final system design and services with pricing.

The final pricing from Harris for a complete turnkey purchase and installation of a six radio antenna site P25 system with four separate 911 dispatch centers, including a point-to-point redundant microwave communication system with new mobile and portable radios is \$10,850,000. Also included is functionality for interoperability communication between regional agencies and a value added capability for cell phone connectivity. There will not be a need to construct an antenna support tower in north Carrollton as originally expected; an existing water tower will be used. Extending software and system warranty support from one to five years will cost \$1,898,746. If a consolidated single site dispatching model is authorized, a change order to the Harris agreement can be used in advance of equipment being ordered which would reduce the upfront cost from 4 to 5%. Additionally, Harris desires to encourage this project to be executed before their current quarter end, so if all participants execute the agreement before the end of June, then another discount of \$300,000 off the upfront

purchase cost is offered.

Not including reductions for consolidated dispatch or end of quarter discounts, Carrollton's portion of the upfront cost is approximately \$5,425,000 and the Carrollton portion of ongoing Harris support is approximately \$950,000 over a five year period beginning after installation completion and to be billed incrementally.

The total time frame from agreement execution until completion is projected by Harris to be up to twenty months. Harris will be installing their Phase II version of a P25 system, which is their most recent offering. Also, we are delaying the ordering of portable and mobile radios to take advantage of upcoming functionality including some specific features of interest to the Fire Departments. These radios will be enabled with GPS technology capable of connection with device location service systems including vehicles (AVL).

Two resolutions have been prepared. One is for Carrollton to agree to the established procedures for the sharing of the new radio system between the four Metrocrest Cities and for Carrollton to agree to pay its share of the upfront as mentioned above at \$5,425,000 plus a 5% contingency. The other resolution is for Carrollton to agree to pay its share of the costs to engage RCC to provide the P25 system installation, testing and acceptance implementation oversight for estimated about \$64,000 plus a 5% contingency.