

ACTION FORM BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: October 28, 2014		DATE SUBMITTED: October 10, 2014	
DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Info Technology		SUBMITTED BY: Mike Hare	
MEETING TYPE:	CLASSIFICATION:	ORDINANCE:	STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:
<input type="checkbox"/> BCD	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/> 1ST READING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SAFETY
<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT	<input type="checkbox"/> 2ND READING	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> STATUTORY		<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC DEVELOP.
<input type="checkbox"/> WORKSHOP	<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFRASTRUCTURE
			<input type="checkbox"/> QUALITY OF LIFE
AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION: Consider approval to authorize a Blanket Purchase Order (BPO) with Motorola in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the replacement of a portion of Fire Department and Police Department Mobile and Portable Radios in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements to narrow band 700MHz. Funding is approved in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the Fire Department in the amount of \$300,000 and the Police Department in the amount of \$290,500.			
SUMMARY STATEMENT: The initial replacement of Fire Department and Police Department Mobile and Portable Radios, in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements to narrow band 700MHz, was approved in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. FY2015 is the first year of a multiyear initiative to replace all radio "subscribers." Anticipated costs to facilitate this upgrade are:			
Police Department:			
FY2015: \$290,500 (approved in the FY2015 budget)			
FY2016: \$290,500			
FY2017: \$290,500			
FY2018: \$290,500			
Fire Department:			
FY2015: \$300,000 (approved in the FY2015 budget)			
FY2016: \$240,000			
In future fiscal years, the above costs could increase or decrease during the plan due to manufacture cost changing and radio counts.			
The FCC rules (47CFR§90.535(d)(2)) state that transmitters operating on the narrowband 700 MHz public safety spectrum channels must operate with an efficiency of one voice path per 6.25 kHz of spectrum after December 31, 2016 (the 32 nationwide interoperability channels and 12 low-power channels are exempt). Only a few of the current City of Bryan subscriber radios are capable of meeting this requirement.			
For more than 40 years the FCC has consistently implemented rule changes requiring use of newer technologies to increase the number of useable radio channels in the finite amount of available radio spectrum. This particular deadline, which was established within the rules in 2002, was based on the FCC's estimate that equipment meeting the 6.25 kHz efficiency requirement would be available from manufacturers by the end of 2006, and that the reasonable life of equipment purchased prior to that time would be ten (10) years. The FCC also expected that the 700 MHz band, which was then occupied by TV broadcasters, would be cleared for public safety to begin activating systems in the band by the end of 2006.			

The majority of all City of Bryan subscriber radios were purchased in 2004. None of the City of Bryan radios purchased in 2004 are capable of meeting the 6.25 kHz requirement and are ten (10) years old. Furthermore, at that time there were no subscriber radios that could meet the P25 6.25 kHz standard requirement available for purchase from any manufacturer at any price. Currently, any new radio purchased is capable of meeting the narrowband requirements. Public Safety has a total of ten (10) radios presently in compliance.

The City of Bryan subscriber radios will become legally obsolete after December 31, 2016 according to the current FCC mandate. The purchase of the new radios keeps the Fire and Police Departments in compliance with federal law, and replacing older radios reduces repair costs of aging equipment while also addressing firefighter and police officer safety with new and updated radios.

The City purchases subscriber radios utilizing the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC) Radio Communications/Emergency Response & Mobile Interoperability Equipment Agreement. This agreement is between H-GAC and Motorola. The agreement sets forth the most favored price structure to purchase equipment from Motorola. It ensures that if equipment is sold at more favorable price to any other governmental customer in the State of Texas, then the City of Bryan will receive that same price. The City has utilized the agreement to purchase its radios since 2004.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approving a blanket purchase order (BPO) so purchases can be made to ensure compliance with the federal law for the Fire Department and Police Department radios. Additionally, replacing older radios reduces repair cost of aging equipment while also addressing firefighter and police officer safety with new and updated radios.

The Information Technology Department respectfully requests the City Council approve a Blanket Purchase Order (BPO) with Motorola in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the replacement of a portion of Fire Department and Police Department Mobile and Portable Radios in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission requirements to narrow band 700MHz. Funding is approved in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the Fire Department in the amount of \$300,000 and the Police Department in the amount of \$290,500.

OPTIONS (In Suggested Order of Staff Preference):

1. Approve the replacement as recommended
2. Do not approve the replacement and provide staff direction

ATTACHMENTS: (both attachments are in a single pdf file)

1. Excerpt from the FCC Regulations
2. Contract between HGAC and Motorola

FUNDING SOURCE: Budgeted Line Item for FY2015: Fire Department (General Fund) and Police Department (General Fund)

APPROVALS: Hugh R. Walker, 10/10/2014

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: Kean Register, 10/17/2014

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: Janis K. Hampton, 10-18-2014