

Meeting Date (?) 05/10/2016

Subject Matter* (?) FY 2017 BVWACS O&M and Capital Budget
This must match rolling agenda entry

Department of Origin* INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Submitted By* Bernie Acre

Type of Meeting* BCD Special Regular

Classification* Public Hearing Consent Statutory Regular

Ordinance* None First Read Second Read First & Only Read

Strategic Initiative* Public Safety Service
 Economic Development Infrastructure
 Quality of Life

Agenda Item Description* Consideration and possible action to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS) Operating Budget (\$552,063.84 for revenues and expenses) and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund (CERF) Budget (\$310,131.13) for the period from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017; and, consideration of the City of Bryan's funding of BVWACS Operating Budget (\$82,370.27) and CERF Budget (\$46,272.88) over the same term.

Summary Statement* The Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS) is an Interlocal agency created through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Bryan, Brazos County, the City of College Station, Texas A&M University (TAMU), Washington County, and the City of Brenham to provide area-wide interoperable communications. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) is the managing entity as set forth in the Interlocal Agreement approved by the Bryan City Council on July 15, 2008. The additional components of the communication system were initially funded through a \$2.8 million Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant to help maintain a wide area public safety radio system that is expandable to the entire seven (7) county regional area. This grant was given to BVCOG, as a sub-recipient from Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC), through one of the federal government's Homeland Security programs.

By using this grant in the proposed manner and acting through BVWACS, the City of Bryan ensures that area public safety and emergency management personnel can maintain communications while traveling through the region. The system allows local first responders (police, fire, EMS) to immediately and easily communicate with other entities that may be called into an area to assist during major incidents. The system also will support the City of Bryan's Public Works Department's day-to-day operations. The Interlocal partnership decreases technology gaps that have occurred as Bryan, College Station, and Texas A&M University developed their separate radio systems over the past fifteen (15) years. BVWACS provides financial savings through shared costs of infrastructure, operations, and maintenance.

BVWACS has cooperated with the Harris County consortium, which includes 14 counties, to establish a regional interoperable radio system. During events such as hurricane evacuations, operators in Galveston can talk via radio with users in the Brazos Valley and many other counties. This wide area radio system shares the Harris County consortium's central controller in Tomball, Texas, which has saved all entities \$2.5 million in initial investment costs. The City of Bryan's portion of the initial savings was approximately \$500,000.

BVWACS is comprised of two boards, the Governing Board and the Operating Board, which oversee the management and operations of the partnership and the system. The Governing Board sets forth the policies for the BVWACS. The Governing Board consists of one member of each of the BVWACS parties (City of Bryan, Brazos County, the City of College Station, Texas A&M University, Washington County, and the City of Brenham). Members are public officials or senior executive level employees.

The City of Bryan's member is Councilmember Mike Southerland. The Operating Board manages the technical operation of the BVWACS. Operating Board members are appointed by each of the BVWACS partner entities.

The City's 2017 Fiscal Year proposed payment to BVWACS is based on the City's projected share of (14.92%) of the total BVWACS costs (salary, benefits, support services, maintenance etc.) for a dedicated Radio System Manager, system maintenance, and the continued operation of the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS). This expense, to be shared on a proportionate basis by all the participating entities, is part of the BVWACS Interlocal Agreement that is currently being utilized between the participating entities.

The proportions are directly related to the amount of radios each entity will operate on the BVWACS. The City of Bryan's portion was 14.96% for FY16 and is projected to decrease to 14.92% for FY17 due to the new radio inventory numbers reported in January 2016. The proportionate share total will be addressed and recalculated each year as laid out in the BVWACS ILA. This total was updated in January of 2016. The changes that affect this total are an increase or decrease of the total number of radios of any entity that utilizes the system.

The City of Bryan's proposed portion of the BVWACS Budget for FY17 is \$82,370.27. This amount is a decrease of \$15,300.43 from FY16. The decrease is due to the City Bryan's proportionate share going down due to the updated inventory count and the reduction in Motorola Service Contract cost. A detailed BVWACS Budget was provided to the City by the BVWACS Governing Board. The total Budget for BVWACS for FY17 is \$552,063.84, which is a decrease of the FY16 Budget of \$101,011.16. This decrease is due mainly to the reduction in Motorola Service contract expenses for the year.

The following is the City of Bryan's historical cost for its portion of the BVWACS Budget:

- FY17: \$82,370.27 (proposed)
- FY16: \$97,671
- FY15: \$102,271
- FY14: \$104,233
- FY13: \$137,816

Percentages for each of the six entities portion of the FY17 Proposed Budget:

- Bryan: 14.92% (- .04% from FY16)
- College Station: 31.80% (+ .83% from FY16)
- Brenham: 9.45% (- .27% from FY16)
- Washington County: 16.88% (- .37% from FY16)
- Brazos County: 16.58% (+ .19% from FY16)
- TAMU: 10.38% (- .33% from FY16)

Percentages for each of the six entities portion of the FY16 Budget:

- Bryan: 14.96% (- .59% from FY15)
- College Station: 30.97% (- 1.63% from FY15)
- Brenham: 9.72% (- .39% from FY15)
- Washington County: 17.25% (- .15% from FY15)
- Brazos County: 16.39% (+ 1.98% from FY15)
- TAMU: 10.71% (+ .78% from FY15)

Percentages for each of the six entities portion of the FY15 Budget:

- Bryan: 15.55% (- .09% from FY14)
- College Station: 32.60% (+ .98% from FY14)
- Brenham: 10.11% (- .32% from FY14)
- Washington County: 17.40% (+ .22% from FY14)
- Brazos County: 14.41% (- .25% from FY14)
- TAMU: 9.93% (- .54% from FY14)

Percentages for each of the six entities portion of the FY14 Budget:

- Bryan: 15.64% (- 4.71% from FY13)
- College Station: 31.62% (+ .33% from FY13)
- Brenham: 10.43% (+ .74% from FY13)
- Washington County: 17.18% (+ 1.61% from FY13)
- Brazos County: 14.66% (+ 1.28% from FY13)

- TAMU: 10.47% (+ .75% from FY13)

Percentages for each of the six entities portion of the FY13 Budget:

- Bryan: 20.35%
- College Station: 31.29%
- Brenham: 9.69%
- Washington County: 15.57%
- Brazos County: 13.38%
- TAMU: 9.72%

The BVWACS costs have flattened with future increases or decreases being mostly attributed to BVWACS's Motorola Maintenance Agreement costs and/or BVCOG cost decreasing. With the BVWACS, the City of Bryan's Motorola Maintenance Agreement costs have declined from approximately \$200,000 per year to approximately \$65,000 per year as those costs are shifted to the BVWACS agreement where costs are shared by all partner entities.

Prior to FY15, the BVWACS Budget contained a Capital line item. FY16's planned budget does not include a request for a Capital Budget line item. The historical Capital budget information is below. There is no previous history of Capital Budget planning. The Capital Fund total as of October 1, 2015 was \$68,598.44.

FY14

- Brazos County (14.66%): \$34,058.55
- Brenham (10.43%): \$24,231.29
- Bryan(15.64%): \$36,335.32
- College Station(31.62%): \$73,460.53
- Texas A&M(10.47%): \$24,324.22
- Washington County(17.18%): \$39,913.09

FY13

- Brazos County (13.38%): \$30,971.53
- Brenham (9.69%): \$29,235.46
- Bryan(20.35%): \$47,105.43
- College Station(31.29%): \$72,428.93
- Texas A&M(9.72%): \$22,499.50
- Washington County(15.57%): \$29,235.46

The Capital Equipment Replacement Fund (CERF) Budget was created in the FY15 budget process. This fund was created at the request of the BVWACS Governing Board to replace aging infrastructure or other equipment as needed; the CERF replaced the former Capital Fund used in fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The CERF is calculated on a ten (10) year life cycle of the infrastructure purchased by the BVWACS entities through both grant funds and capital funds contributed, and may be used for other equipment replacements as needed. The CERF includes dispatch consoles, recording equipment, and radio infrastructure located at the various towers that serve the public safety subscriber's coverage area. The Operating Board devised several options to calculate the proportionate share of costs for each BVWACS entity for the FY16 Budget year. Two (2) options were presented to the BVWACS Governing Board during the April 22, 2015, Governing Board meeting for action to approve the final means of calculating the CERF Budget. The Board voted to fund 75% of total equipment investment based on FY17 subscriber count. This option was determined the least subjective and most equitable way to calculate allocations. It also uses the same calculation method as the Operating Budget. BVWACS presents this budget allocation with the understanding that using this methodology does not provide for a full capital replacement of all assets. A complete system replacement is not the goal of this fund, but rather to selectively upgrade individual components as needed to keep the system operational and up to date. The City of Bryan's portion of the CERF budget as proposed, will be \$46,272.88. This is a decrease of \$108.81 below the Approved CERF Budget for FY16. The decrease is due to changes in the radio subscriber counts

Proposed BVWACS Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget, FY17:
(75% of total equipment investment based on FY17 subscriber count)

- Total equipment investment as of 2016 : \$4,135,081.70
- Life cycle of equipment: 10 Years
- Proposed Annual amount: \$413,508.17
- Recommended amount for FY17 (75%): \$310,131.13

* Recommended amount for FY17 (75%): \$310,131.13

Allocations:

- Bryan (14.92%): \$46,272.88
- College Station (31.80%): \$98,612.65
- Brenham (9.45%): \$29,306.16
- Washington County (16.88%): \$52,339.77
- Brazos County (16.58%): \$51,414.31
- TAMU (10.38%): \$32,185.36

Historical:

BVWACS Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget, FY16:

(75% of total equipment investment based on FY16 subscriber count)

- Total equipment investment as of 2015 : \$4,135,081.70
- Life cycle of equipment: 10 Years
- Proposed Annual amount: \$413,508.17
- Recommended amount for FY16 (75%): \$310,131.13

Allocations:

- Bryan (14.96%): \$46,395.62
- College Station (30.97%): \$96,047.61
- Brenham (9.72%): \$30,144.75
- Washington County (17.25%): \$53,497.62
- Brazos County (16.39%): \$50,830.49
- TAMU (10.71%): \$33,215.04

Approved BVWACS Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget, FY15:

(50% - 10 Year Straight-Line Method)

- Total equipment investment as of 2014 : \$3,885,214
- Life cycle of equipment: 10 Years
- Proposed Annual amount: \$388,521
- Recommended amount for FY15 (50%): \$194,261

Allocations:

- Bryan (15.55%): \$30,208
- College Station (32.60%): \$63,329
- Brenham (10.11%): \$19,640
- Washington County (17.40%): \$33,801
- Brazos County (14.41%): \$27,993
- TAMU (9.93%): \$19,290

The Capital Equipment Replacement Fund total as of October 1, 2015 was \$544,390.55.

The BVWACS Governing Board voted to approve the Proposed FY17 BVWACS Operating and CERF Budget at the last BVWACS Governing Board meeting on April 2, 2016, pending any rejections or changes from the partners' governing bodies.

Staff Analysis & Recommendation *

Approval of the Proposed FY17 BVWACS Operating and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget better ensures radio communication interoperability between the BVWACS ILA parties. The regional-wide concept includes a State-wide system at some undetermined time in the future.

The Information Technology Department respectfully requests that the Bryan City Council authorize the approval of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 BVWACS Operating and CERF Budget, for the period from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, with an Operating Budget of \$552,064.84 for revenues and \$552,063.84 expenditures; a CERF Budget of \$310,131.13 for revenue and expenditures only to replace aging infrastructure or other equipment as needed; and the City of Bryan participation amount being \$82,370.27 for the Operating budget and \$46,272.88 for the CERF Budget.

To staff's knowledge, all participating entities are taking similar action items to their respective governing bodies. Staff is unaware of a partner entity that is not considering continued participation in BVWACS.

Options*

(In Suggested Order of Staff Preference)

- Approve the Proposed FY17 BVWACS Operating and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget.

- Do not approve the Proposed FY17 BVWACS Operating and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund Budget, and provide direction to staff and the City Council's BVWACS representative. This option may require consideration at a future City Council meeting.

- Take other action.

Funding Source*

The City of Bryan's portion for participation in the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS) is \$82,370.27, plus the "Capital Equipment Replacement Fund" in the amount of \$46,272.88 totals \$128,643.15 and will be funded from the General Fund. This funding amount will be included in the City of Bryan FY17 Budget.

Attachments

FY2017 BVWACS Budget.pdf

7.4MB

Please detail attachments and note attachments available for viewing in City Secretary's Office:

Attachment: FY2017 BVWACS Budget.pdf

Dept. Head Signature



**Deputy City Manager
Signature**



City Manager Signature



City Attorney Signature

