

## ACTION FORM BRYAN CITY COUNCIL

<b>DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING:</b> August 27, 2013		<b>DATE SUBMITTED:</b> July 29, 2013	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN:</b> Info Technology		<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Bernie Acre	
<b>MEETING TYPE:</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>ORDINANCE:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:</b>
<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
<b>AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:</b> Consideration to approve the First Restatement of the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS) Inter-local Agreement (ILA) between the City of Bryan, Brazos County, College Station, Texas A&M University (TAMU), Washington County, and the City of Brenham, effective October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2018.			
<b>SUMMARY STATEMENT:</b> BVWACS was created through an ILA signed by the City of Bryan on September 25, 2008, between the City of Bryan, Brazos County, College Station, Texas A&M University (TAMU), Washington County, and the City of Brenham to provide area-wide interoperable radio communications.			
<p>The existing ILA terminates September 30, 2013. Each entity, with assistance from their legal departments, reviewed and modified the current BVWACS ILA in anticipation of renewing the agreement effective October 1, 2013. Minor changes were made to the original document to accommodate future growth of the overall BVWACS. For example, in the original document it referenced voting requirements of “five of the six” entities necessary to make decisions and approve major documents such as operating budgets and contracts. This requirement was changed to “three-fourths”, to provide flexibility if additional entities join BVWACS during the term of the agreement. The voting aspect of the ILA would not need to be modified, they would only need to be added to the partner list and then each entity’s governing body would be required to approve the ILA, as written, for their entity. Other changes include making the document consistent throughout and to clarify when the annual audit for the radio count update would occur, which determines the cost share of each partner for the next budget cycle.</p> <p>The BVWACS Governing Board approved the First Restatement of the ILA during their meeting of July 17, 2013, and requested it be presented for approval to each entity’s governing body.</p> <p>The communication system was 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 county regional area. This grant was given to the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), as a sub-recipient from Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC), through one of the federal government’s Homeland Security’s programs. BVCOG was then designated as the managing entity as set forth in the BVWACS-BVCOG ILA dated September 25, 2008. A renewal of this ILA is up for consideration for approval under a separate agenda item at this meeting.</p> <p>By using this grant in the proposed manner and acting through BVWACS, the City of Bryan ensures that our area public safety and emergency management personnel can maintain communications while traveling throughout the region. The system allows local first responders (i.e., police, fire, EMS) to immediately and easily communicate with other entities that may be called into an area to assist during major incidents. The interlocal partnership decreases technology gaps that have occurred as Bryan, College Station and TAMU developed their separate radio systems over the past fifteen (15) years. BVWACS provides financial savings through shared costs of infrastructure,</p>			

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, College Station, TAMU, Washington County and the City of Brenham). Members are public officials or senior executive level employees. The City of Bryan's member is Councilmember Greg Owens who is presently the Board Chair. The Operating Board manages the technical operation of the BVWACS. Operating Board members are appointed by each of the BVWACS partner entities.

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:** The Information Technology Department respectfully requests that the Bryan City Council authorize the approval of the First Restatement of the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communications System (BVWACS) Inter-local Agreement (ILA) between the City of Bryan, Brazos County, College Station, TAMU, Washington County, and the City of Brenham effective October 1, 2013 thru September 30, 2018.

Approval of the First Restatement of the BVWACS ILA 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. Additionally, Approval of the First Restatement of the BVWACS ILA results in the City of Bryan continued involvement with the BVWACS for five additional years and expenditure of City funds for our cost share associated with the BVWACS budgets.

To staff's knowledge, all participating entities are taking similar action items to their respective governing bodies. Staff also believes all partner entities' staff are recommending continued participation in BVWACS.

**OPTIONS (In Suggested Order of Staff Preference):**

1. Approve the First Restatement of the BVWACS ILA
2. Modify the First Reinstatement, which may require consideration at a future City Council meeting, negotiation with the other partners, and consideration by the BVWACS Board
3. Do not approve the First Restatement of the BVWACS ILA and provide direction to staff and the City Council's BVWACS representative
4. Take other action

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. First Restatement of the BVWACS ILA

**FUNDING SOURCE:** No funding source required for this Council Action. Funding was previously approved at the May 14, 2013 City Council meeting.

**APPROVALS:** Hugh R. Walker, 08/02/2013

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:** Kean Register, 08-08-2013

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:** Janis K. Hampton, 08-12-2013