



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Council Session

Item G-13

#2016-252 - Approving Purchase of New Portable Radios

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Fire Chief Cory Schmidt
Meeting: October 11, 2016
Subject: Purchase of New Portable Radios
Presenter(s): Fire Division Chief Russ Blackburn

Background

The Fire Department purchased a third of the portable radios that we are currently using in 2007. They are Motorola XPR 6550s and have been good radios and survived 12 years of use during firefighting and emergency calls. However, they have reached the end of their useful life span. Repairs have ranged from the on/off detent (the resistance between on and off) being worn down to where the radio can be bumped to the off position without the user knowing. Major repairs have run as much as 33% of the original cost of the radios. As a result they have become less than reliable during firefighting and other type of emergency calls, and costly to maintain.

Discussion

The radios the Grand Island Fire Department would like to purchase are Motorola XPR7550 portable radios. They are digital signal capable and intrinsically safe, will not be a source of ignition if the user is in a flammable atmosphere. Although currently our dispatch center is not digital signal capable it is the next step in technology for radios. They will work with the analog systems in the area and that other departments use. We will be able to use the digital signal on our 'fireground' frequency that we use during structure fires and larger incidents. The digital system should give us clearer, easier to understand radio traffic and slightly greater range, over analog radios. The new radios will also reduce the maintenance costs of the current older radios and will have a two year warranty. The total for the purchase of 76 radios is Nebraska State Bid of \$94,578.20 (\$1244.45/ radio). Due to budget restraints, we are proposing to purchase the last one-third or 25 radios for a cost of \$31,111.25. These will be given to full time personnel and some with Epic radios, voice amplifiers built into the facepieces of the breathing apparatus used when personnel are in Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the purchase of 25 Motorola XPR7550 portable radios for the Grand Island Fire Department at the cost of \$31,111.25 from State bid.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the purchase of 25 Motorola XPR7550 portable radios for the Grand Island Fire Department at the cost of \$31,111.25 from State bid.

RESOLUTION 2016-252

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Departments oldest portable radios have been used for the past twelve years and served the department well; and

WHEREAS, the radios have now become expensive to maintain and their reliability and safety are in question; and

WHEREAS, replacing the radios will decrease the maintenance cost, and increase safety of firefighter, while improving communications and range of transmission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, Move to approve the purchase of 25 Motorola XPR7550 portable radios for the Grand Island Fire Department at the cost of \$31,111.25 from State bid.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, October 11, 2016.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
October 7, 2016	☐ City Attorney