



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Council Session

Item G-15

**#2023-69 - Approving FY24 Community Project Funding Grant
Request for P25 Radio System**

Staff Contact: Jon Rosenlund

Council Agenda Memo

From: Libby Finochiaro, Grants Administrator

Meeting: March 14, 2023

Subject: Community Project Fund Request for P25 Radio System

Presenter(s): Jon Rosenlund, Grand Island-Hall County Emergency Management
Chief Kevin Denney, Grand Island Police Department

Background

Grand Island-Hall County Emergency Management in conjunction with the Police Department is requesting to apply to the FY24 Community Project Fund to purchase and install two ASR tower sites and nine consoles in the Emergency Operations Center and seventy-five (75) P25 multi-band radios for the Police Department. The purchase of this equipment will allow the City of Grand Island to connect to the Statewide Radio System and communicate with our partners who have already switched over to the P25 system.

Our Community Project Fund request will go to Congressman Adrian Smith. Selected projects will be presented to the federal appropriations committee for funding under specific federal agencies. We are requesting \$3 million in funding from the Department of Homeland Security toward the purchase of the two ASR tower sites and the installation of nine consoles at the EOC. This grant requires a 25% match that will be split between the City of Grand Island and Hall County 50/50 per an already existing interlocal agreement. The cities portion of this project would total approximately \$375,000, with \$2.25 million coming from the grant and \$375,000 from Hall County.

We are also requesting \$550,000 in funding from the Department of Justice toward the purchase of seventy-five P25 multi-band radios. This grant requires a 25% match. The cities portion of this project would total approximately \$137,500, with \$412,500 coming from the grant.

A copy of the grant applications has been included with this packet for your review.

Discussion

At the 01/24/2023 council meeting, council approved Grand Island Police Department to purchase seventy-five P25 multi-band radios due to safety concerns and lack of interoperability of the current system with our partner organizations. In the same meeting,

Grand Island Fire Department received approval to apply to the FY23 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of seventy P25 multi-band radios for their department.

The purchase and installation of two ASR tower sites and nine consoles for the Emergency Operations Center will provide full functionality to our P25 radio system and complete our conversion to a multi-band system.

If selected for funding, this generous opportunity would provide a critical \$2.25 million of this \$3 million project. There is a 25% match for this grant, amounting to \$750,000. The City of Grand Island and Hall County have an existing interlocal agreement where each entity would pay for 50% of the grant match, amounting to \$375,000 for the City of Grand Island. The purchases would be budgeted for in the FY24 budget.

There is an expected cost savings benefit of \$19,140 annually with the purchase of this equipment. The State of Nebraska charges a fee of \$132 per radio to patch onto the Statewide Radio System. Council has approved of the purchase of 145 radios that will need to be patched into the state system if we choose not to upgrade our towers and consoles. This savings benefit will increase if more radios are purchased for additional staff.

We are also requesting \$550,000 in funding from the Department of Justice toward the purchase seventy-five P25 multi-band radios. This grant requires a 25% match. The cities portion of this project would total approximately \$137,500, with \$412,500 coming from the grant.

The purchase of this equipment is essential to completing our conversion to a multi-band radio system. It will improve safety for our staff and our community, reducing barriers to interoperability with our responding partners and improving efficiency in daily operations among our staff.

Alternatives

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

1. Move to approve the submittal of a grant application.
2. Take no action.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council authorizes the submittal of the FY24 Community Project Fund applications and \$512,500 (\$375,000 EOC and \$137,500 Police Department) match for the purchase of two ASR towers, nine consoles, and seventy-five P25 radios.

Sample Motion

Move to authorize the submittal of the FY24 Community Project Fund applications and \$512,500 (\$375,000 EOC and \$137,500 Police Department) match for the purchase of two ASR towers, nine consoles, and seventy-five P25 radios.

Rep. Adrian Smith – FY24 Community Project Funding Request Form

Additional materials may be requested.

Any submitted material may be published on the Congressman's website or in the Congressional Record.

Instructions

- 1) Applications, including all supplemental documentation, must be submitted by 11:59 PM MDT on Friday, March 17, 2023.
- 2) Individuals/Organizations must respond to all questions on the form.
- 3) All requests must be submitted via e-mail.
 - ✓ Please return all documents as attachments via e-mail.
 - ✓ Completed forms must be submitted to josh.jackson@mail.house.gov.
 - ✓ Please make sure the subject line of your email corresponds with your request.

Please contact Josh via email or at 202-225-6435 with any questions about this form or the process.

Section: 1 (Organization Information)

Organization Name: City of Grand Island
Street Address: 100 E. 1st St.
City: Grand Island
State: NE
Zip Code: 68801

Section: 2 (Contact Information)

Point person at your organization who staff may contact regarding this request

First Name: Jon
Last Name: Rosenlund
Phone Number: 308-385-5362
E-mail Address: jonr@grand-island.com

Section 3: Request Details

1) Appropriations Subcommittee
Homeland Security

2) Eligible Account
Federal Assistance – Emergency Operations Centers

3) Legal Name of Organization to Receive Funds
Grand Island-Hall County Emergency Management Department

4) Location of Project
Grand Island and Hall County, NE

5) Project Description

The Grand Island – Hall County Emergency Management Department fills the role of emergency management and 911 communications for Hall County, NE and is the primary owner and maintenance organization for the public safety radio system in Hall County. The City and County seek to install a P25 Radio system in our EOC to serve the needs of all public safety agencies inside Hall County. This includes the installation of two (2) ASR Tower sites and the installation of 9 consoles in the Grand Island Emergency Operations Center. This is the critical infrastructure for the County-wide P25 Radio system and will be maintained by the Emergency Management Department. Cost for the P25 capable consoles is \$2.0 million and cost for two ASR Tower sites is \$1 million. This new system would be capable of connecting to the Statewide Radio System as well as neighboring Buffalo County's P25 system, providing full integration and seamless radio access to State and local responders.

6) Overall Cost of Project

\$3.0 Million

7) Amount Requested

\$2.25 Million

8) Does this account have a local match requirement? How will this match be met?

Yes, the match is 25% and equals approximately \$750,000. This will be met through the Interlocal Agreement between City of Grand Island and Hall County that funds the Emergency Management Department.

9) If this project is funded, how much of the requested amount would be spent in FY24?

100%

10) Justification for the project

The purchase of the two ASR Tower Sites and nine consoles will allow our EOC to seamlessly communicate over a digital trunked radio system with responders throughout Nebraska. It removes interoperability barriers like radio band or frequency between our local and State responders. It provides direct interface between the EOC and our Incident Commanders, more effectively supporting incidents like the 2019 floods and special events such as the Nebraska State Fair. This project allows us to patch disparate systems together to bridge gaps that may remain between partners.

The lack of interoperability of our current system is putting our entire staff and community at risk during responses with other jurisdictions. Grand Island Fire Department is a member of the Platte River Valley Mutual Aid District, providing mutual aid to surrounding communities. GIFD and GIPD regularly work alongside the Nebraska State Patrol and local sheriff's offices. Our staff are at risk during our mutual aid operations due to our inability to communicate directly with our partners. The replacement of this equipment is an urgent issue and without this grant funding, our community will be faced with significantly cutting staff or services to make the purchase.

11) How will this project benefit the Third District of Nebraska?

Hall County is the largest county in the District, and Grand Island is the largest municipality. This area also serves as an anchor in the Third District for economic and tourism interests. Emergency response agencies in Hall County cooperate routinely with neighboring jurisdictions as well as the State of Nebraska on issues of public safety. The ability to communicate with agencies such as the State Patrol and neighboring agencies who are already on a P25 radio system will help overcome serious interoperability challenges. This will also allow Hall County to collaborate directly with existing P25 systems in Buffalo County and the Statewide Radio System by Memorandum of Agreement, thus providing a more seamless communications infrastructure for State, county and municipal agencies.

12) Have you submitted a CFP request for this project to other offices?

No

13) Did your organization receive CFP funding in FY22 or FY23?

No

Section 4: Mandatory Supplemental Documents

Please provide the following documents as separate PDFs when submitting this application.

- **List of evidenced community support for the project.**
- **Signed, dated letter from the chief executive of the requesting organization receiving funding certifying the following:**
 - **No funding will be used for commemorative purposes in accordance with House Appropriations Committee guidelines**
 - **No for-profit entity will directly profit from the project funding**
 - **No immediate family member of Congressman Smith has a financial interest in the requested project.**

Rep. Adrian Smith – FY24 Community Project Funding Request Form

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Instructions

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Section: 1 (Organization Information)

Organization Name: City of Grand Island
Street Address: 100 E. 1st St.
City: Grand Island
State: NE
Zip Code: 68801

Section: 2 (Contact Information)

Point person at your organization who staff may contact regarding this request

First Name: Kevin
Last Name: Denney
Phone Number: 308-385-5400
E-mail Address: kdenney@gipolice.org

Section 3: Request Details

- 1) **Appropriations Subcommittee**
Commerce, Justice, Science
- 2) **Eligible Account**
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – Technology and Equipment
- 3) **Legal Name of Organization to Receive Funds**
City of Grand Island, NE
- 4) **Location of Project**
Grand Island, Nebraska

5) Project Description

The purchase of P25 Radios, Mobile and Portable, for the Grand Island Police Department office sworn staff.

6) Overall Cost of Project

\$550,000.00

7) Amount Requested

\$412,500.00

8) Does this account have a local match requirement? How will this match be met?

Yes, the City of Grand Island would provide the 25% matching funding for this project.

9) If this project is funded, how much of the requested amount would be spent in FY24?

100%

10) Justification for the project

The purchase of P25 capable radios will allow the Grand Island Police Department to have seamless and interoperable radio communication capabilities within Hall County as they migrate to a P25 digital trunked radio system, as well as collaborate with other P25 systems throughout the State of Nebraska, including the Nebraska State Patrol and neighboring Buffalo County, which already have P25 system.

11) How will this project benefit the Third District of Nebraska?

Grand Island is the largest city within the Nebraska Third District with a population over 50,000 and participates in a number of regional partnerships such as SCALES, the South Central Planning Exercise and Training Region, and cooperative efforts to share sensitive law enforcement intelligence with one another. This project will allow GIPD to have seamless communication capabilities with not only other P25 systems in the Region or State, but also the ability to speak on other “legacy” systems such as UHF and VHF analogue system. Thus the GIPD could have interoperable radio communications with any local jurisdiction in the Third District and provide life-saving assistance in mutual aid, disaster or special event response.

12) Have you submitted a CFP request for this project to other offices?

No

13) Did your organization receive CFP funding in FY22 or FY23?

No

Section 4: Mandatory Supplemental Documents

Please provide the following documents as separate PDFs when submitting this application.

- List of evidenced community support for the project.
- Signed, dated letter from the chief executive of the requesting organization receiving funding certifying the following:
 - No funding will be used for commemorative purposes in accordance with House Appropriations Committee guidelines
 - No for-profit entity will directly profit from the project funding
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RESOLUTION 2023-69

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island- is applying to the FY24 Community Project Fund for federal assistance to purchase and install two ASR tower sites, nine consoles, and seventy-five P25 multi-band radios.

WHEREAS, in order to communicate via radio with surrounding departments the City of Grand Island must upgrade their current equipment to be P25 complaint; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the purchase and installation of the two ASR tower sites and nine consoles is \$3,000,000 with \$2,250,000 of that cost being requested in federal grant funding and \$750,000 is required in local match funding for FY24; and

WHEREAS, there is an existing interlocal agreement between the City of Grand Island and Hall County for the local match to be split 50/50 between the two entities with \$375,000 in funding requested in local match funding for FY24 from the City of Grand Island; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the purchase of seventy-five P25 multi-band radios is \$550,000 with \$412,500 of that cost being requested in federal grant funding and \$137,500 is required in local match funding for FY24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the FY24 Community Project Funding Grant applications and \$512,500 local match in FY24 is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such grant applications on behalf of the City of Grand Island.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 14, 2023.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

Jill Granere, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 10, 2023	☐ City Attorney