



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 26, 2002

Council Session

Item G22

#2002-88 - Awarding Bid for Project Impact Weather Radios

In conjunction with Project Impact federal funding to address disaster mitigation efforts, the Community Projects Department has solicited and obtained bids for the purchase of FM Radio S.A.M.E. Weather/All-Hazard Alert Units. Funding for the provision of the radios has been made available through the Project Impact grant. These radios (up to 3,500) are being made available to the general public at a cost of \$15.

NOAA Weather Radios continuously broadcast National Weather Service forecasts, warnings and other crucial weather information, and can sound an alarm to alert users of approaching dangerous weather. The radios can be programmed to receive information specific to a certain area, using the Specific Area Message Encoder (S.A.M. E.) feature. NOAA Weather Radio is the only government operated radio system that provides direct warnings to the public for natural and man-made hazards, from floods to tornadoes or toxic spills. NOAA is also the primary trigger for activating America's Emergency Alert System on commercial radio and television stations. Weather radios provide an alternative warning mechanism to the emergency sirens.

Each radio consists of a 162 MHz FM radio with over-riding alerting capability, Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.), both analog and digital chips installed for receiving S.A.M.E. and all seven (7) National Weather Service frequencies; display screen programmed to display the type of alert (watch, warning, or statement), a clock, selected 162 MHz FM channels, and the weekly National Weather Service test; LCD lights that indicated whether the alert is a watch, warning or statement and will remain lit for the length of the watch, warning, or statement; multiple preprogrammed F.I.P.S. codes as directed by Grand Island Project Impact; and a lamp to light the screen, when needed.

The radios shall be pre-programmed according to the Federal Information Processing System (F.I.P.S.) codes from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, F.I.P.S. publication 6-4, as directed by Grand Island Project Impact; shall include required amount of batteries with each unit for back-up purposes; shall provide shipping and handling for each unit to each individual recipients as specified by Grand Island Project Impact; shall provide personalized notes with each unit explaining which counties are programmed into the unit, where the recipient can get assistance in reprogramming the unit, and a telephone number the recipient can call for that assistance; shall provide a telephone number the recipient can call to speak to a meteorologist to obtain assistance in re-programming the unit or in using any function of the unit for the length of time that the recipient shall own the unit; references from 2 or more organizations for whom the company has facilitated a similar program; and a demonstration model of the unit.



Two bids for the weather radios were received. One of the bids was determined to be non-compliant. The bid meeting specification was submitted by Weather or Not, Inc. Shawnee, Kansas in the amount of \$67 for the first 1,000 weather radios, and \$66 for the remaining 2,500 radios. Weather or Not, Inc. has successfully completed similar projects in two other mid-west communities. Project Impact federal funding, along with the City's matching dollars, will fund the cost difference of \$42 per radio. If all 3,500 weather radios are purchased, the total project cost would be \$232,000(including the \$15 consumer purchase cost). The breakdown of funding is \$174,000 from Project Impact grant dollars, \$52,500 consumer, and \$5,500 City's matching funds. The engineer's estimate for 3,500 weather radios was \$220,000. Approval is recommended.

Staff Contact:



RESOLUTION 2002-88

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island invited sealed bids for 1,000 FM Radio S.A.M.E. Weather/All-Hazard Alert Units with a total not to exceed 3,500 units to be available over a specified period of time for the Community Projects Department/Project Impact, according to plans and specifications on file with the Purchasing Division of the Legal Department; and

WHEREAS, Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) funding in the amount of \$174,000 through a Project Impact grant is available to assist in the funding of these weather radios, with the City and consumer responsible for 25% of the total cost of the weather radios; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the weather radios will be sold to the public at a cost of \$15 per unit; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2002, bids were received, opened and reviewed; and

WHEREAS, Weather or Not, Inc. of Shawnee, Kansas, submitted a bid in accordance with the terms of the advertisement of bids and plans and specifications and all other statutory requirements contained therein, such bid being in the amount of \$232,000.00 or \$67 per unit for the first 1,000 units and \$66 per unit for an additional 2,500 units.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the bid of Weather or Not, Inc. of Shawnee, Kansas, for FM Radio S.A.M.E. Weather/All-Hazard Alert Units in the amount of \$67 per unit for the first 1,000 units and \$66 per unit for an additional 2,500 units is hereby approved as the lowest responsive bid.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on March 26, 2002.

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form

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March 22, 2002

* City Attorney