



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Council Session

Item G-13

#2015-293 - Approving Purchase of New Portable Radios for the Grand Island Fire Department

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Fire Chief Cory Schmidt
Meeting: October 27, 2015
Subject: Purchase of New Portable Radios
Presenter(s): Fire Chief Cory Schmidt

Background

The Fire Department purchased portable radios for a third of the department last budget year. The remaining two thirds of the portable radios that are currently in use were purchased in 2007. They are Motorola XPR 6550s and have been good radios and survived 8 years of use during firefighting and emergency calls. However, they have reached the end of their useful life span. 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 from Platte Valley Communications utilizing Nebraska State Bid. 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, the purchase of radios was planned to take place over three consecutive budget years. This request covers the second year and consists of 25 radios at a cost of \$31,111.25. The radios will be issued to full time personnel. We hope to purchase the final phase of radios in next year's budget. At that point, all portable radios will have been replaced. \$31,500 was budgeting for radio replacement in budget 2015-16.

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 Platte Valley Communications of Grand Island, Nebraska utilizing Nebraska 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 Platte Valley Communications of Grand Island, Nebraska.

RESOLUTION 2015-293

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Departments oldest portable radios have been used for the past eight 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 Platte Valley Communication of Grand Island, Nebraska.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, October 27, 2015.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
October 23, 2015	☐ City Attorney