



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Council Session

Item G-14

#2015-294 - Approving Purchase of Opticom Traffic Signal Controllers

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Fire Chief Cory Schmidt
Meeting: October 27, 2015
Subject: Purchase of Opticom Traffic Signal Controllers
Presenter(s): Fire Chief Cory Schmidt

Background

The Grand Island Fire Department responds to approximately 5000 emergency calls per year. Responding to emergencies is often very dangerous to not only the fire department personnel but also citizens on or near the public streets. Nationwide many vehicle accidents have involved first responders at or near intersections controlled by traffic signals.

Discussion

The Grand Island Fire Department seeks to purchase three Opticom traffic signal control units for their emergency vehicles. The Opticom units utilize a radio signal and GPS technology to control traffic signal lights to stop the flow of traffic in all directions except the direction the emergency vehicle is traveling towards. This system can also determine if two emergency vehicles are approaching the same intersection which vehicle is closer. The Opticom unit gives the closest vehicle a green light which will reduce the likelihood of vehicle accidents involving two emergency vehicles from occurring. Each unit costs \$3,157.00 for a total of \$9,471.00. The fire department requested \$11,000 in its capital budget for these units. The fire department considers Opticom and its vendor Mid America Signal a single source vendor due to the interoperability needed for the traffic signals currently being installed by the Grand Island Street Department.

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 approves the purchase of three Opticom traffic signal control units from Mid America Signal of Kansas City, Kansas for \$9,471.00.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the purchase of three Opticom traffic signal controllers from Mid America Signal of Kansas City, Kansas at a cost of \$9,471.00.

RESOLUTION 2015-294

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Fire Department responds to numerous emergency calls each year; and

WHEREAS, responding on calls has an inherent risk to not only emergency responders but also citizens on or near the public streets; and

WHEREAS, Opticom traffic signal control units will make responding to emergencies safer by controller traffic signals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the purchase of three Opticom traffic signal controllers at the cost of \$9,471.00 from Mid America Signal of Kansas City, Kansas.

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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