

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, July 1, 2013

Regular Meeting

Item Reports4

Council to consider moving the Scottsbluff Fire and Police repeaters from the Scottsbluff Public Safety Building to Regional West Medical Center.

Staff Contact: Mayor Meininger

Fire and Police Communications Inside Regional West Medical Center

6/19/2013

S= Fire and law enforcement do not have communications with the 911 center or each other once they are about 20 feet inside RWMC buildings.

B= Over the years, construction and the addition of MRIs, CT etc. has reduced communications capabilities with our fire and police departments. One January 29th of 2007 police were called to Panhandle Pediatrics for a report of a shooter in the facility. It was determined that we did have a gunshot victim however, the shooting took place in Terrytown and the shooter was not on the RWMC Campus. During the response, it was determined that the responding officers lost communications with responding officers and the 911 center upon entering the North Plaza. There was a review of the incident and it was confirmed that upon entering the RWMC buildings, officers lost communications about 20 feet of so into the buildings. This was also confirmed recently at RWMC on 5/21/2013 at 0913 when a fire occurred in the Kitchen. I have chaired a committee to recommend a solution.

A= The committee confirmed that the situation still exists and tested for a solution.


1. Test (1) added an 800 MHz repeater and antenna in the RWMC Head House on the roof with the other communication equipment. (This test provided excellent communications at RWMC) This would require a new repeater, antenna, license, reprogramming and all incoming units would have to switch from normal day to day channels to the new RWMC frequency.
2. Test (2) moved existing 800 MHz repeaters at the Scottsbluff Public Safety Building closer to the antenna to reduce horizontal DB loss. (This test did not provide acceptable coverage at RWMC).
3. Test (3) moved an 800 MHz repeater from the Public Safety Building to the RWMC Head House with a Unity Gain Omni antenna. (This test provided great coverage for RWMC however, we lost communications in areas of Scottsbluff. Coverage in Scottsbluff was not acceptable)
4. Test (4) moved changed the antenna from the Unity Gain Omni to a Yagi 6db gain antenna. (This test provided acceptable coverage at RWMC and acceptable coverage in the City of Scottsbluff. This would allow fire and police to remain on their day to day frequencies when responding to and operating within RWMC)

R= The committee's recommendation would be to apply test (4). This would move the fire and police 800MHz repeaters from the Scottsbluff Public Safety Building and install them in the RWMC Head House with new Yagi antennas. We would also recommend that we connect the repeaters into Air Link Dispatch. This would enable the Air Link Communication Specialists to talk directly to incoming fire and police personnel. Costs to do this are as follows.

Project Total \$10,164.70

RWMC has approved the concept to correct the situation and has agreed to pay \$5095.70 of the project

We will also need contracts between the Hospital, County and City to make this happen.



Randy Meininger, NRP, ASM

Mayor of Scottsbluff

