



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: Item Number

SUBJECT: Public Safety Broadband Modems

DATE: January 17, 2008

FROM: Administrative Services/Telecommunications Division

PRESENTATION BY: Anna Tellez, Telecommunications Manager

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Tellez, 754-5142

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the purchase of fifty eight (58) broadband modems for the Police public safety vehicles from Wireless Mobile Data, P.O. Box 1088, El Granada, CA 94018, in the amount of \$62,045.14.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2007, City Council approved the purchase of broadband equipment and services for eighty (80) public safety (Police and Fire) vehicles. The agreement provided for broadband data access and all related equipment. After a thorough analysis with three major vendors, AT&T, Verizon and Sprint/Nextel, staff's recommendation was to enter into a one-year agreement with Sprint/Nextel. Council approved this purchase and an agreement was executed in September 2007.

Shortly thereafter, the Fire Department, through an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant deployed an automatic vehicle location project. Through this project they received seventeen (17) Pinpoint brand ruggedized modems compatible with the Sprint/Nextel network and thereby decreasing the number of modems required of Nextel through the original agreement.

This particular modem, procured by the Fire Department through the countywide grant is a much more advanced and durable modem not originally available at the time of the analysis earlier in the year. The Public Safety committee evaluated, reviewed the modem and concluded the stability of this hard-mount, ruggedized modem was more desirable in a public safety environment than the air-card provided with the Sprint system. While the committee was satisfied with the analysis and testing the Sprint network provides, versus the other vendors, the committee sees a need to enhance the hardware allowing access to this network. It is the committee's recommendation we purchase the hard-mount modems for use in the police vehicles. It will not be necessary to fund the purchase for the Fire vehicles, since that requirement was satisfied through the UASI grant.

ANALYSIS:

The advent of future technological advances was considered when recommending a one year agreement versus multiple years. As the industry continues to improve individual network infrastructure, applications continue to mature and expand the amount and speed of information capable of being delivered directly to the field officers' vehicle. Staff considered this aspect of the industry and requested, and was granted, the ability to evaluate future needs on an annual basis in order to maintain the ability to contract for the most robust and efficient network-hardware.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Funding is available in the 2007-2008 fiscal year adopted budget. The alternative would be to deploy the broadband air cards that are provided with the Sprint System in the police vehicles only, and have disparate systems for public safety, thus creating a challenge for repair/replacement/redundancy for the next six-months until the one year evaluation is reached. At that time, staff would recommend the purchase of the Pinpoint ruggedized modems.

Based on the technology available today and the recent purchase by the Fire Department, staff recommends the purchase of the Pinpoint ruggedized modems.

FISCAL REVIEW:

Funding for this purchase is included in the 2007-2008 fiscal year adopted budget.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal has reviewed the documents and approved them as to form.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the purchase of fifty eight (58) broadband modems for the Police public safety vehicles from Wireless Mobile Data in the amount of \$62,045.14.

ANNA TELLEZ

Telecommunications Manager

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Administrative Services Director

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Justification For Sole Source Request](#)

Broadband 2-5-08

1/24/08

9:35am