



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 03, 2009

ITEM NUMBER: Item Number

SUBJECT: Countywide Winlink 2000 System

DATE: January 12, 2009

FROM: Administrative Services Department / Telecommunications Division

PRESENTATION BY: Anna Tellez, Telecommunications Manager

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Tellez (714) 754-5142

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to agree to the plan of using Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds for the purchase and installation of radio and computer equipment in the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to implement a Countywide Winlink 2000 System.
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to accept the Winlink 2000 System equipment, i.e., radio and computer equipment, and be responsible for its future maintenance.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Costa Mesa's Telecommunications Division (the 'Division'), and the City's volunteer organization, Mesa Emergency Services Amateur Radio Communications (MESAC), are standing members of the City/County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Committee (Committee), administered by the Orange County Sheriff's Department/Communications.

Recently, Committee members agreed, in principle, to utilize UASI grant funds to implement a Countywide Winlink 2000 System (System). If approved, the grant would provide the funds for the System software and all the necessary radio and computer equipment needed for the System.

The System is independent and redundant. It will allow an EOC and/or properly equipped field personnel the ability to send and receive emails, with attached documents, via amateur radio equipment, in the event the Internet and/or phone (fax) services are lost, to any other entity capable of receiving email with or without attachments.

Because the System is reliant on amateur radio equipment, it was determined that only cities with active RACES or Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) programs would be able to receive the equipment. The City's volunteer organization, MESAC, is an approved active group under the RACES program.

ANALYSIS:

The Telecommunications Division puts forth considerable effort to have reliable communications systems for the City in both day-to-day operations as well as in emergency and disaster situations. The Division is responsible for the City's Emergency Services Program which includes the EOC. Internet and email capabilities are required for modern EOC functioning. Currently, the City's EOC does not have email capability. Not to participate in the Countywide Winlink 200 System would eliminate an independent and redundant method for the City's EOC to access the Internet or communicate via email with or without attachments in emergency or disaster situations.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Allow the City's EOC to remain without an independent and redundant System for Internet access and email system.

FISCAL REVIEW:

Little to no cost. Initial costs of the equipment are covered by grant funds. Ongoing maintenance – software is free, computer will be replaced on a normal wear-and-tear and technology basis, and radio equipment tends to have a long life. Maintenance of the equipment will also off-set by support from MESAC.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal has reviewed the documents.

CONCLUSION:

The approval of this Letter of Agreement and acceptance of the plan to utilize UASI grant funds for the purchase, installation and on-going maintenance of radio and computer equipment in the City's EOC to implement a Countywide Winlink 2000 System is vital to having independent redundant communications capabilities in emergency and disaster situations during emergency response and recovery operations with local, county, state and nationwide entities.

ANNA TELLEZ
Telecommunications Manager

STEPHEN N. MANDOKI
Administrative Services Director

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW
City Attorney

LYNDA JENKINS
Grant Administrator

DISTRIBUTION: Grant Admin
Telecommunications
Finance
City Manager
City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Letter of Agreement to Receive Grant Funded Amateur Radio Equipment OCSD/Communications](#)

File Name

Date

Time