

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**REVISED  
ITEM \_\_\_\_**

**00-547**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

NOVEMBER 20, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
IMPROVEMENTS -  
REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**WILLIAM H.  
MOULDER  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**RONALD WAKEHAM  
FIRE CHIEF**

**MICHAEL  
ARMSTRONG  
IT DIRECTOR**

**SYNOPSIS -**

As directed by the City Council, our consultant has completed the needs assessment for police and fire communications improvements. The report recommends a variety of extensive steps to greatly upgrade capabilities, replace obsolete equipment and computer system applications, allow migration from expensive computer mainframe operations and permit safer and more effective operations.

These include replacement of the dispatch and records systems, acquisition of new radio consoles, improvements in interagency communications and radio system coverage, replacement of the fire department equipment status system and a mobile data system.

The Council is being asked to approve a contract with RCC Consultants, Inc., (Michael W. Hunter, President, 100 Woodbridge Center Drive, Suite 201, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095-1106) to provide professional services to assist with developing Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the improvements to the dispatch and records system, console and radio system, and the fire mobile data system. The consultant will also assist in reviewing proposals and selecting vendors.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The cost for the contract services from RCC Consultants, Inc. is \$165,000. Funds are available in the CIP (#CP034, ENG990000, BLD079, page LBD-30).

The Council is not being asked to approve the expenditures for the first phase of this project, which are estimated to be approximately \$7,125,000. The funding has been identified in the Capital Improvement Budget. It comes from a variety of sources including the General Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund, grants and General Obligation Bonds As vendors are selected for each

component, they will be brought back to Council for approval.

## **RECOMMENDATION -**

### **Approval.**

## **BACKGROUND -**

On September 13, 1999, by Roll Call #99-2846, the City Council approved an RFP for consulting services to assist with the design, development and implementation of needed public safety communications improvements. On December 20, 1999, by Roll Call #99-3811, the City Council approved the selection of RCC Consultants, Inc. to provide these services.

The consultant has completed the needs assessment for the computer-aided dispatch system, records management system, radio consoles, radio system and mobile data system. The report outlines the identified deficiencies, discusses alternative solutions and makes recommendations for needed improvements. In summary, the consultants' recommendations are:

- Replace the computerized dispatch and records systems
- Replace the radio consoles
- Replace the fire status system
- Voice radio systems remain UHF
- Obtain and share additional voice channels
- Improve voice radio coverage
- Simplify voice patching between agencies

We are ready to move forward with the next phase of the project. A contract has been negotiated with the consultant to assist in developing RFPs for the dispatch and records system, console replacement, radio improvements and fire mobile data systems. City Council approval will be requested to implement each component when vendors have been selected.

This is an expensive and extensive undertaking which will take several years to accomplish. When complete, we will have up-to-date, reliable equipment and better information on which to make decisions. Better decisions will result in better and more effective service to the residents of Des Moines.

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