



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**02-159**

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

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

MARCH 28, 2002

Through the direction of the City Manager, the Finance Department explored the cost saving potential available through a Citywide cell phone contract for all non-Public Safety cell phone users. Nextel was found to have met all minimum service requirements and is available through the Western States Contract Alliance (WSCA) at an annual cost savings of \$42,000 per year.

**SUBJECT:**

CITYWIDE CELL  
PHONE CONTRACT

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**TYPE:**

The funding for the services and equipment will come from the various departmental operating budgets at a Citywide savings of \$42,000.

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**Approval of annual contract for Nextel wireless telecommunication services and equipment available from Nextel Partners Inc. through the WSCA contract.**

MERRILL R.  
STANLEY  
FINANCE  
DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND -**

The City currently has over 600 cell phone users, costing nearly \$290,000 per year. The number of phones is divided almost equally between Public Safety (Police and Fire) and all other departments combined. Cell phone contracts have been entered into with a variety of providers for city-owned phones and personal phones on which some City business is conducted. Contracts have been secured by departments and individuals.

At the direction of the City Manager, we have explored the cost saving potential available through Citywide cell phone contracts. Minimum service requirements included a closed system, for greater reliability in the event of an emergency, and the ability to communicate freely

between user systems. In order to avoid the possible disruption of 600 cell phone users changing providers at the same time, we chose to divide the selection process into two phases. The Park and Recreation Department has a need to make a decision immediately due to the staffing up for summer, so staff chose to look at the non-Public Safety phones first.

Based on the minimum service requirements, Nextel became the clear favorite. Because there is a WSCA contract in place with Nextel, we were able to move quickly to make arrangements for the service. An addendum to the WSCA contract, which will cover cell phone service for the next year, is presented for your approval.

In the months following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York City, approximately 65 management employees became Nextel users as part of an emergency response group. Therefore, the change to Nextel as the cell phone provider for the non-Public Safety group will require a change in only about 250 phones. Because of the new pricing structure, however, even the cost of the existing cell phone agreements will be lower.

Cost savings for the non-Public Safety group will be approximately \$42,000 per year from current cell phone costs if we approve the new agreement and execute the contract prior to April 1, 2002. This timeline also works well for the operating departments, and so it is in the best interest of the City to move forward with the agreement as expeditiously as possible.

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