



Agenda Item:

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## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 07/06/05  
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-369  
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Bill McCarthy, Police Department  
Philip Vorlander, Fire Department

### **SUBJECT—**

Department of Justice – 2005 Communications Interoperability Grant.

### **SYNOPSIS—**

A multi-agency grant application has been developed to improve voice communications between police, fire and emergency medical service in the greater Polk County area. This will be done by adding four radio channels that can be used by public safety agencies during events or incidents that involve more than one agency.

### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

The total project is \$4,158,868. Federal funds would pay for 75% (\$3,119,151) of the cost. The local match is 25% (\$1,039,717). Des Moines will be the lead agency but other jurisdictions that will participate have indicated they will provide a portion of the local match. Des Moines' portion of the local match will be negotiated prior to grant acceptance.

### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval.

### **BACKGROUND—**

The Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has established a grant program to encourage demonstration projects for improved radio interoperability between police, fire

and emergency medical services. The Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is eligible to apply for this competitive grant program.

An application has been developed with assistance from other public safety agencies in the county to establish four additional radio channels that can be used by different agencies at a particular event or during a specific incident. Two of these channels would be for coverage throughout the county. The other two would be portable and could be taken to a particular location to support communications. Funds are also included to upgrade mobile and portable radios throughout the county to access these additional four channels.

A similar proposal was approved and submitted last year on the July 26, 2004 City Council Agenda, (Roll Call No. 04-1592) as well as on the July 28, 2003 City Council Agenda (Roll Call No. 03-1742). Neither application was funded by the Department of Justice. New federal funding has been appropriated and our earlier proposal is being re-submitted.