



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

December 04, 2006

Agenda Item No. **38D**
Roll Call No. **06-**
Communication No. **06-746**
Submitted by: **William McCarthy, Chief
of Police**

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of contract with U.S. Cellular providing wireless telecommunication services and equipment through State of Iowa Contract for the Police Department.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of a contract with U.S. Cellular for cell phones for the Police Department and authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract for the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$76,000. (This is a reduction from \$84,000 annually for basic monthly service).

Funding Source: 2006-2007 Operating Budget, Contractual Services Account Code 527110 for all Bureau Organization Codes, pages 169 through 186.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In September 2004, US Cellular was chosen by the City Council as a cell phone service provider for the City. The term of the contract was for two years. In September 2006 the cell phone service contract between US Cellular Corporation and the City of Des Moines, Iowa expired. At that time, the Police Department was faced with the decision to request a new contract for service with US Cellular or completely convert over to the City's recently approved cell phone service agreement with Nextel Corporation.

After several discussions with police staff, it was determined a new contract with US Cellular should be negotiated for two important reasons. The first concern of the police department was cellular coverage. US Cellular has for some time provided a wider wireless coverage area than Nextel. The wider coverage area becomes critical when officers are tripped to rural areas or are on call in areas not adjacent to the city or the interstate highway system. The majority of officers requiring the more extensive coverage are assigned to the Detective Bureau, Patrol Bureau, and the Homeland Security Bureau. The Nextel contract is being used predominately by the Inspectional Service Bureau and some sections in the Homeland Security Bureau.

The second concern of the police department is redundancy in communication. One of the lessons learned in the flood of 1993 was that in times of severe emergency situations cell phone usage has a dramatic upsurge in service requirements. The possibility of cell phone service failure can be reduced if the police department has two service providers to choose from during times of severe disasters.

A Contract for Services has been created and reviewed by City staff representing Police, Purchasing and Information Technology. The contract term is for two years with thirty-day renewal periods upon expiration of the two-year term. At the end of the two-year term, the police department will review the status of their communication needs and determine a course of action at that time. The new contract cost per customer is \$35.00 per month, which is the same cost per customer as the expired contract. Instead of 400 minutes per customer per month each customer will receive 500 minutes per month. The new service cap has been reduced from 200 to 180 phones. Pricing is contingent on the number of phones (service cap) or accounts utilized by the department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 27, 2004

Roll Call Action: 04-2058

Action: Contract with U.S. Cellular providing wireless telecommunication services and equipment through State of Iowa Contract CT1993 for public safety cell phone users. Moved by Coleman to adopt. City Manager to provide analysis of features of the existing City cell phone contracts with others in the industry. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Renewal of contract after two years.