

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: November 3, 2014
	Agenda Item No. 45 Roll Call No. <u>14-1743</u> Communication No. <u>14-529</u> Submitted by: Douglas M. Harvey, Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting proposal of RCC Consultants Inc. to provide a needs assessment study for consolidation of communication centers and future radio needs, while authorizing the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute a contract for the provision of the same.

SYNOPSIS:

City Procurement, at the request of a committee consisting of representatives from the Des Moines Police Department, the Des Moines Fire Department and the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to qualified radio consulting firms on August 28, 2014. Four (4) detailed proposals were received. Each proposal was carefully reviewed which resulted in final interviews being conducted the first week of October. Each firm was evaluated based on criteria included in the RFP by members of a committee consisting of individuals from the Des Moines Police and Fire Departments as well as the Polk County Sheriff’s Office. Based on the results of the evaluations, it was determined that the contract should be awarded to RCC Consultants Incorporated 2425 Millcreek Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, Mike Hunter President,. The consultant will assess the feasibility of combining dispatch services and evaluating the available options for the City’s future radio needs as the industry transitions to a digital format.

This is a joint project between the Des Moines Police Department, the Des Moines Fire Department, and the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$130,895 cost that will be shared equally with the Polk County Sheriff’s Department. The City will be responsible for \$ 65,447.50.

Funding Source: \$32,275 will be funded from E911 (PD222377) for the Dispatch Collaboration Need Study and \$ 33,172.50 from general operating budget (PD220354) for the Radio Communications Need Study.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Services provided by various levels of government are being closely reviewed to identify redundancies and possible cost reductions. The Chief of Police and the Polk County Sheriff directed a committee of employees to review options of combining communication services presently provided by both entities. This included a review of the Emergency Dispatch Centers operated by each entity as well as the radio systems.

The City Emergency Dispatch Center serves the urban area with a highly concentrated population and multiple structures. The Polk County Emergency Dispatch Center serves a more rural community including approximately 30 local police, fire and public works entities. Both centers have experienced increasing costs with dated equipment, new technical demands to accommodate the expanded capabilities of cell phone communications, and expanded GPS location capabilities. At the same time the E911 revenues have decreased with the reduction in the quantity of stationary telephone usage. These centers presently share some resources such as the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) program, Metropolitan Interoperability Communication System (MICs), and Records Management System (RMS). Communications and cooperation between the centers, law enforcement, fire services and public works entities has become more important as they relate to critical incidents and public safety.

The City presently owns and maintains a conventional UHF/VHF radio system constructed in the late 1970's. The system has been moderately updated to meet federal regulations and mandates yet the analog core of the system has remained primarily the same. Many other systems across the county have been updated to a digital format which allows clearer communications, expanded talk groups and increased encryption capabilities to provide a higher level of protection against unauthorized outside sources gaining access to information. Polk County currently leases a digital radio communication system from RACOM Corporation. The system has proven to be effective and sufficient for their department and their collaborative efforts with fire, law enforcement and public works departments throughout the county.

At the direction of the Police Chief and the Polk County Sheriff a committee was established consisting of employees of both entities. The committee has met weekly over several months to review issues and opportunities for combining the two (2) dispatch centers and the possibility of future replacement of the City's aged radio system. The creation of an RFP was a result the committee's collaborative efforts to identify the feasibility of combining the two (2) Emergency Dispatch Centers in one (1) location with services being provided in the same manner as they are today. The consultant will also evaluate if it is more effective and efficient to combine the two (2) centers into one (1) large center to serve the City and the county. Included in the RFP was the request for a review of the City radio system to review the feasibility of leasing a system such as Polk County or build a new system with a digital format.

The RFP was sent to radio consulting firms on August 28, 2014 with four (4) responses received by the specified date. Each proposal was carefully reviewed by members of the committee and interviews were conducted in the first week of October. Each proposal and presentation was evaluated based on criteria included in the RFP. Based on results of the evaluation, it was determined that the contract should be awarded RCC Consultants Incorporated.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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