

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	November 17, 2014
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>14-1784</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>14-546</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving application for U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Application.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend the City Council authorize the Fire Department to submit a United States Department of Homeland Security 2014 AFG, approve pursuit of purchase of equipment to utilize commercial LTE mobile data network in a secure fashion for public safety use, and approve City of Des Moines matching fund requirements consistent with the grant application. The Fire Department is requesting funding for the purchase of 40 InMotion mobile gateway devices, and supporting connection manager and management system or comparable system.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$216,800 (10% required match of the total estimated project cost of \$21,680)

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Recommended operating Budget, E911 Reimbursement, G001 PD222377, page 196

If awarded, expenses for this project are anticipated to be incurred in FY2016. The grant states awards will be made between March 9, 2015 and September 21, 2015, with a one year performance period.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The system being sought is a replacement to our current mobile data management system for the Fire Department. This proposed system is comprised of three components. A rugged mobile communication gateway device, a management system and a mobile optimized VPN Server. A gateway will be located in each unit to provide the best available connection to the City network through commercial 4G LTE, City Wi-Fi or FirstNet (when available), the management system will provide insight as the health of the network per unit and the connection manager will provide a secure reliable means of connectivity to the data needed for the user to complete their work.

This system will allow the Fire Department to have a data network capable of field reporting (Electronic Patient Care Reporting - ePCR), gaining access to pre-plan information and more accurately capture response time data elements as the data network. Our current system is limited to transmitting and capturing response data only. Improvement will be realized due do the technology

being upgrade from a 800MHz 56K system to a 4G LTE data network. This new mobile data system is also configured for the future public safety broadband LTE network (FirstNet).

This upgraded data network will allow the Fire Department to put reliable information in the hands of our first responders on scene in a coordinated and effective manner and be well positioned for FirstNet. Without a system such as the one being requested, each device will be responsible for its own data connection and security of said connection. This creates a drag on the device and impacts the user experience. It is much more efficient (cost and personnel) to manage a network than to manage individual devices. As for FirstNet, without this system we will be facing some type of upgrade either devices or system to take advantage of this new broadband network once built.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 11, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-0222](#)

Action: [U.S.](#) Department of Homeland Security and FEMA 2012 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) award of \$80,727 for the purchase of piston driven chest compression devices. ([Council Communication No. 13-061](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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