

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	February 6, 2017
	Agenda Item No.	32
	Roll Call No.	<u>17-0199</u>
	Communication No.	<u>17-051</u>
	Submitted by:	Dana Wingert, Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting proposal from Federal Engineering Inc. (10600 Arrowhead Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, Ronald Bosco, President) to provide public safety communication consulting in determining future radio needs and options.

SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public safety communications consulting with responses due no later than December 8, 2016 with 10 qualified responses received. A selection committee with members of Police, Fire, Public Works, and Finance evaluated the proposals, selected three (3) finalists for in-person interviews and ultimately selected Federal Engineering as the preferred vendor.

The City owns and operates a legacy analog radio system built in 1973 and is seeking consulting services in transitioning to a modern digital radio system. The consultant will be tasked to perform a needs assessment and make recommendations on equipment, coverage, performance, and interoperability. Several options exist including joining an existing radio system, leasing a system, or building an entirely new network.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$83,025

Funding Source: Radio Maintenance and Repair Fund, FY 2017 Recommended Operating Budget, page 205.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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, yet the analog core of the system has remained primarily the same. Most other radio systems across the country have been updated to a digital format which allows for broader coverage, communication with other users and systems, encryption against unauthorized outside sources, GPS tracking, clearer communication, and expanded talk groups.

Several existing digital options are available:

- Polk County currently leases a digital radio communication system from RACOM Corporation.
- Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) is an emerging statewide radio network that local public safety and services entities can join.
- If the City were to join the ISICS or RACOM, additional tower sites or equipment may be necessary in order to meet coverage standards.
- With two (2) strong systems in the area, the consultant will help provide unbiased and technical analysis and recommendations.

The RFP specifies 3 Phases: Needs Assessment and Recommendations, Procurement Support, and System Implementation Support. The costs associated with this contract is only for Phase I. Costs for additional phases are optional and will be billed at an hourly rate.

In November 2014, a consultant was hired to conduct a needs assessment study of future radio needs and possible consolidation of communication centers. The vendor filed for bankruptcy and was unable to provide a satisfactory final report. The contract was terminated and the vendor was not paid in full. This consultant will focus solely on radio needs which is vital to emergency communications, and will allow for the advancement of consolidation efforts in the future.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 3, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1743](#)

Action: [Accepting](#) proposal of RCC Consultants Inc. to provide a needs assessment study for consolidation of communication centers and future radio needs and to negotiate and execute a contract. ([Council Communication No. 14-529](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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