


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-361	Meeting:	August 17, 2020
	Agenda Item:	42	Roll Call:	20-1345
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Amendment and Addendum for Renewal of Contract with Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. for School Flasher System and Procurement of 4G Cellular Modems.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of Amendment and Addendum for Renewal of Contract with Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. for School Flasher System and Procurement of 4G Cellular Modems.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$70,700

Funding Source: 2020-2021 CIP, Page Street Improvements – 54, Traffic System Operation Improvements, TR097

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines currently operates 101 school zone flashing systems in school speed zones throughout the City.
- In March of 2014, the City's purchasing agent requested and received proposals for a School Flasher System Upgrade Project. From the four (4) proposals received, Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. (TAPCO) was selected to provide a school zone flashing system. The agreement included equipment, software license, training, technical support, maintenance services, and hosting services.
- The School Flasher System Software provided by TAPCO was BlinkLink. The software allows for two-way communication to each school flasher unit. The agreement included five (5) years of BlinkLink software with up to three (3) additional terms of three (3) years each. The initial five (5) year term is expired and needs to be renewed. TAPCO is the sole provider of BlinkLink.
- Additionally, in 2014, each school zone flashing unit was equipped with a 3G cellular modem for communication. By the end of 2020, the 3G cellular network will no longer be supported. In order to continue communications with the school zone flashing system, each unit needs to be equipped with a new 4G cellular modem.

- The cost to upgrade the cellular modems in each school zone flasher is \$700 per unit for a total cost of \$70,700. The cellular modems are an integral part of the total system so as to be uniquely compatible with existing City needs, materials, and equipment. Therefore, a competitive procurement process to purchase the 4G cellular modems does not apply to this purchase under exception 2-726(d).
- This action will also renew the BlinkLink software for three (3) additional years. The first year is included in the modem upgrade price of \$70,700. The second- and third-year payments will be \$195 per unit for a total annual cost of \$19,695. This is an increase in cost from the original contract amount of \$12,558 annually. The increase in the annual cost is due to increases in TAPCO's operating and webhosting costs since the original contract in 2014.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 22, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1480](#)

Action: [Proposal](#) for a school flasher system and related implementation services from Traffic & Parking Control Co., Inc. ([Council Communication No. 14-461](#)) Moved by Coleman to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Annual fee of \$19,695 for hosting and maintenance/technical support, and cellular modem service fees from the City's operating budget.

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