


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-372	Meeting:	September 29, 2025
	Agenda Item:	50	Roll Call:	25-1307
	Submitted by:	John F. TeKippe, Fire Chief		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving negotiation and execution of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Polk County Sheriff's Office to provide dispatch capabilities for Fire Station Alerting to Des Moines Fire Department (DMFD) Station No. 4.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of a new MOU with the Polk County Sheriff's Office to initiate Fire Station Alerting at the DMFD Station No. 4 via a US Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Station Alerting System that is owned by Polk County, Iowa/Polk County Sheriff's Office. The system will be a proof of concept for possible future integration at all other City fire stations.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Fire Station Alerting for the Des Moines Police Department (DMPD) and DMFD currently uses an automated system incorporating audio, visual, and digital notifications integrated with a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in the City's 911 Emergency Communications Center to alert DMFD and EMS personnel of emergency calls.
- The City's Deputy Chief Information Officer for Public Safety Technology, DMPD, and DMFD wish to evaluate a U.S. Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Station Alerting System owned by Polk County, Iowa, through its Sheriff's Office, for initial use at Fire Station No. 4 and potential extension to other DMFD Stations throughout the City, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office has offered to allow the DMPD and DMFD to access and use its Phoenix G2 system for this evaluation at no cost during the Fire Station No. 4 trial period.
- The Deputy Chief Information Officer for Public Safety Technology, the Des Moines Police Chief, and the Des Moines Fire Chief recommend negotiation and execution of an MOU with the Polk County Sheriff's Office setting forth the parties' obligations with respect to the Fire Station No. 4 trial. The City currently utilizes the Westnet First-In Fire Station Alerting System at all City Fire Department stations.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

This MOU will continue until either the City of Des Moines or the Polk County Sheriff's Office request a change or termination of the agreement.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.