

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Police Department

To: Tarik Khatib, Chief of Police
From: Stephen Zarnowiec, Police Captain
Date: November 28, 2011
Re: Lawrence Police 2011 Radio Purchase Request

BACKGROUND

Federal mandates and fixed equipment infrastructure aging/obsolescence is necessitating replacement of Douglas County's Public Safety Communications 800 MHz infrastructure. The planned replacement of Douglas County's Public Safety 800 MHz with a digital 800 MHz system will necessitate all communications users served by the Douglas County infrastructure migrate to 800 MHz digital compatible subscriber equipment. Lawrence Police uses the Douglas County 800 MHz infrastructure to support its primary operations and will be required to update its equipment as a result of these changes.

Planning is on track to complete the Douglas County digital 800 MHz infrastructure replacement beginning in 2013. The City of Lawrence is addressing these changes and planning to replace all affected mobile and handheld radios through the use of equipment reserve funding sometime in 2012. A timeline is not yet finalized and actual equipment costs for the City have not been developed past budgetary numbers.

Lawrence Police began the radio replacement process in 2009. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant funding was used to purchase 44 handheld and 33 mobile radios. Lawrence Police has not replaced any other mobile or handheld radios since this initial effort. In mid-2011 Lawrence Police still needed to replace 106 handheld radios and 49 mobile radios. Due to a 2011 increase in police staffing, the number of radios now needed is 110 handheld radios and 50 mobile radios.

DISCUSSION

Police department staffing and assignment changes have resulted in an immediate need to acquire 19 handheld radios. Improved hiring timelines and an increase in the authorized number of officers in combination with losses of aged equipment no longer repairable by the manufacturer has led us to the tipping point where our staffing is exceeding our operable radio equipment availability. Increased attrition of our 15 year old portable radios is an exacerbating factor as well. These radios are no longer

supported by the manufacturer and repair parts are not available.

Twelve radios are needed in order to equip twelve new officers who will soon complete training. These officers will begin working in the field upon graduation and will need to be issued radios. Seven additional radios are needed to equip officers recently assigned to specialty unit assignments. All officers assigned to this detail need to have identical radio equipment and must be compatible with the existing State of Kansas Digital 800 MHz system.

The equipment we are requesting to purchase is already known to be needed and planned to be purchased sometime in 2012 once funding is available. Lawrence Police is simply requesting to initiate the purchase of this equipment early.

COST SAVINGS ANALYSIS

Motorola is offering a purchase incentive of \$450.00 per radio applicable to the model of handheld radios and mobile radios we utilize. This incentive offer is time sensitive. We must have a purchase order completed and an order placed before December 18, 2011 to qualify for the savings.

Lawrence Police expects to purchase an additional 110 handheld units and an additional 50 mobile units between now and the end of 2012. At \$450.00 per radio, there is a potential to save \$72,000 dollars over the total project cost if all radios were purchased immediately under the current Motorola purchase incentive offer.

At a minimum, \$8,550 would be saved if we are able to make use of the Motorola incentive program to purchase the 19 radios we have an immediate need for.

BUDGET EFFECT/FUNDING SOURCES

Equipment Reserves has been identified as the likely funding source for all 2012 radio purchases planned as a result of the Douglas County infrastructure change. Initial budgetary estimates placed the cost of replacing Lawrence Police radios at approximately \$655,900.

Current pricing for the specified equipment has been obtained. The equipment would be purchased through State of Kansas Equipment Purchase Contract pricing in force at this time. With the current incentives included on top of the State Contract Pricing, each mobile is currently priced at \$3066.04 and each handheld is priced at \$3207.20.

The current price of the total radio replacement project, if executed at this time, under the existing Motorola incentive program, would be \$506,094. The total project savings

available due to the incentive program would be \$72,000. This savings is only available if the planned capital outlay for this project were available for immediate encumbrance, and purchase order authorization/generation could be completed in time to place an order for the equipment with Motorola prior to expiration of the incentive program.

Purchase of 19 radios we have immediate need of, if completed prior to the expiration of the incentive program, would cost \$60,937 and result in a savings of \$8,550 over an order placed after December 18, 2011.

RECOMENDATION

I recommend the City of Lawrence 2012 radio replacement plan be examined for the capacity to encumber \$506,094 and execute early initiation of the planned purchase of police department radio equipment in order to save \$72,000 in total project cost. While the timing of funds availability matching the total project outlay may not be possible at this time, it is prudent to examine the potential for acting early in order to save \$72,000 on a planned upcoming 2012 purchase.

Absent the capacity to fund the entire police department radio replacement project at this time, I recommend \$60,937 be encumbered and a purchase order authorized for the early purchase of 19 handheld radios we will be procuring in 2012. The radios are needed at this time and purchasing them under the current incentive plan would save \$8,550.