



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: April 5, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Dirk Ishiwata, Fleet and Facilities Manager
d_ishiwata@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6486(22) Authorizing Appropriations for City Radio Network Replacement Project

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6486(22) (attached) authorizing the supplemental appropriations of \$2,500,000 for the Radio Network Replacement Project.

Background:

The City's radio network provides the direct communication staff needs to provide the daily operations and first responder services for the community. The current network includes 8 fixed repeater sites, 29 repeaters, 244 vehicle mounted (mobile) radios, 319 handheld (portable) radios, and various supporting equipment. Many of the primary system components are approaching 30 years old, and have been discontinued by the manufacturers making technical assistance and service parts virtually impossible to come by for many years now.

Discussion:

The age of the existing radio network, unavailability of tech support and service parts, the necessity to maintain an up-to-date and reliable network, coupled with new regulatory requirements necessitates the need to upgrade the radio network. Staff has been working with multiple vendors, communicating with various local agencies, and collaborating with our local first responders to determine the best system upgrade plan that will meet all of the City's various user needs. The new network will be digital, include 5 police dispatch consoles and provide P25 radios for our first responders, with the option to encrypt communications, and be compatible with Santa Barbara County's current upgrade project along with the addition of a microwave air fiber meter condition system. To provide better network coverage and minimize dead zones, a new transmitter/repeater site to the North (Flag pole area of Ken Adam Park or AHC) is needed as part of the project. Additionally, a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) network will be provided for other non-First Responder City

field personnel (Utilities, Public Works, Transit, etc.) that currently utilize the radio network. (DMR is a lower cost digital radio solution designed to migrate analog radio users to digital.) The estimated cost of implementing the radio network infrastructure upgrades and first responder radio purchases is \$2,500,000.

The radio network is currently vulnerable to failure and prolonged outages as of result of system component failure and the unavailability of service parts and technical support. It is crucial that the City is able to begin the selection and purchase process for these much needed radio network upgrades.

Fiscal Impact:

Because historically the City has not had sufficient revenue sources to fund replacement and reserves for facility asset replacements, there is no fund set aside for the Radio Network Replacement Project.

Supplemental appropriations are identified in Resolution No. 6486(22) to fund the estimated \$2,500,000 required for the improvements as follows: \$2,100,000 from fund 424CIP-722230 "Govt. Capital Improvements-Portable Radio Equipment," with the additional \$400,000 allocated proportionately among the Enterprise and Public Works funds as detailed in Resolution No. 6486(22).

Conclusion:

The radio network is a valuable asset needed to provide a communication lifeline for all City field works but especially for our first responders. Without it, they are unable to quickly and efficiently protect the residents of the community. Completing the Radio Network Upgrade Project and associated equipment purchase provides an essential tool the City needs to be able to deliver services that our City residents demand and deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk Ishiwata, Fleet and Facilities Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Michael W. Luther, Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6486(22)