



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: December 9, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: n/a
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief
Director(s) (805) 681-5507
Contact Info:

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Portable Radios

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Purchasing Manager to procure approximately 251 portable radios and related accessories in an amount not to exceed \$ 1,301,000 from Motorola Solutions, not a local vendor, without conducting a formal bid process; and
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0003738; and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15378(b) (4) that the above fiscal activity is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Summary Text:

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the Fire Department is requesting that the Board of Supervisors waive the requirement for a competitive bid for the purchase of approximately 251 portable radios and related accessories from Motorola Solutions.

These radios and accessories are being offered directly from the manufacturer at the lowest possible purchase price. The portable radios will be issued to all safety personnel. Chief Officers and Captains/Supervisors will be issued a radio that features a dual band configuration which allows for communication with both fire and law enforcement personnel while Engineers, Firefighters and Heavy Equipment Operators will be issued a single band radio. Chief Officers will also be issued a single band radio. The Motorola radios are specifically designed for firefighters and offer unique features including

superior audio quality, immersion resistant housings, intrinsically safe operation, noise cancelling microphones, GPS location, and emergency locator features. By purchasing these radios the Fire Department will ensure interoperability with other fire and law enforcement agencies and will be prepared for a change to fully digital communications should the county move to a new system.

Background:

Portable radios are critical to the operations and safety of firefighters and the radios must function in a wide variety of environments. The Fire Department responds to structure and wildland fires in addition to medical calls and other all-risk emergencies including water rescues, hazardous materials, urban search and rescues etc. The Department's response area includes both urban and rural areas and the portable radio must function reliably and effectively during any of these types of responses. The Motorola APX6000 single band and APX7000 dual band radios have proven superior in side-by-side comparisons performed by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department when compared with radios from a number of manufacturers that were tested in various environments. In addition, the Motorola radios are also currently in use by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Montecito Fire Department, and Ventura County Fire Department.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$1,309,600. There are no facilities impacts.

Fiscal Analysis:

The FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget includes \$940,000 for the purchase of replacement portable radios. The \$940,000 was predicated upon the purchase of single band portable radios with fewer features as well as fewer radios. After evaluations and reviews by the Department's Communications Committee and the Executive Chiefs, it was determined that the best course of action would be to deploy a combination of single and dual band radios throughout the Department. This would improve the Department's interoperability with law enforcement and other emergency responders by providing Chief Officers and Captains with dual band radios while providing a reliable and effective single band radio to the remaining safety personnel within the Department.

The dual band radios cost 30% more than the single band radios and as such, the 87 APX7000 radios to be purchased will be classified as capital equipment. In addition, due to the favorable pricing, the Department will purchase 15 radios in anticipation of staffing increases projected over the next two years. Until the staffing increases materialize, the additional radios will serve as an emergency cache should a number of radios require maintenance simultaneously.

Budget Revision Request #BJE-0003738 appropriates an additional \$369,600 for replacement portable radios. This includes an increase to Capital Assets of \$512,200 funded by unanticipated property tax revenues (\$369,600) and a transfer of \$142,600 from Services and Supplies to Capital Assets.

Special Instructions:

Please send a certified copy of the minute order to the County Purchasing Agent

Attachments:

Budget Revision Request #BJE-0003738

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