BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

**Agenda Number:**

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| **Department Name:** | General Services |
| **Department No.:** | 063 |
| **For Agenda Of:** | February 5, 2019 |
| **Placement:** | Departmental |
| **Estimated Tme:** | 1 Hour |
| **Continued Item:** | No |
| **If Yes, date from:** | |
| **Vote Required:** | Majority |

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** General Services Janette D. Pell, Director (805) 560-1011
Contact Info: Thomas Gresham, Assistant Director (805) 568-2606

**SUBJECT:** **Public Safety Radio System Replacement Project Report; All Districts**

**County Counsel Concurrence**
As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management
As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**
As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

a) Receive and file the Public Safety Radio Replacement Project Report, prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc. (hereafter "Federal Engineering);
b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Federal Engineering for consulting services associated with specification writing and management of the Request for Proposal for the Public Safety Radio System Replacement Project in the amount not to exceed $86,997; and
c) Determine under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b) (3) that this activity is exempt from review on the basis that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The County of Santa Barbara's Public Safety Radio System is at end of its vendor supported life and is in need of replacement. On December 12, 2017, the Board of Supervisor's (Board) approved a Professional Services Agreement with Federal Engineering for the purpose of assessing the current radio communications environment as well as define the County's future operational requirements for all users of the Microwave and Simulcast systems. The results of the report will guide the County in identifying new technologies and capabilities in the industry that will solve operational deficiencies that exist in the current systems.

The report (Attachment 1) has provided the County with an understanding of the expected costs for replacing the end-of-life Public Safety Radio System, which is estimated at $48.7 million. Next steps have been identified that includes specification writing and management of Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Public Safety Radio Replacement System.

**Background:**

The County of Santa Barbara has a diverse radio communications environment, with several different land mobile radio systems deployed to meet specific operational needs of County departments. These systems are in different stages of their lifecycle, and each have varying technologies and capabilities. The County needs to replace the Public Safety Radio System as it is at the end of its useful life. The replacement system must meet public safety standards for performance and reliability and provide robust radio communications for the next 10 to 20 years. The County will consider consolidating systems where it can provide efficiencies and reduce operating costs.

Federal Engineering has completed their assessment of the current radio communications environment and has defined the County's future operational requirements for all users of the Microwave and Simulcast systems. The Public Safety Radio System is comprised of the following systems: Land Mobile Radio (LMR), Microwave Backhaul, Simulcast and DC Power, in addition to a Network Monitoring system. General Services installed elements of the Alcatel, and Motorola systems beginning in 1994 with the core system completed by 1998.

Based on the outcome of the study, Federal Engineering recommends the County replace the existing Sheriff, EMS, and LG LMR systems with a shared UHF (Ultra High Frequency) Project 25 (P25) digital trunked radio system. P25 is a suite of standards for digital mobile radio communications designed for use by public safety organizations. P25 radios are a direct replacement for analog UHF radios but add the ability to transfer data as well as voice. The County would upgrade the existing Fire VHF (Very High Frequency) system with like technology for use by Fire and EMS. EMS communications with the hospitals would shift to the UHF trunked system.

Federal Engineering's recommendation is based on the following factors:

1. The UHF P25 trunked system is the latest, standards-based LMR technology.
2. The shared UHF P25 trunked radio system as recommended would have less channel congestion (i.e. busies) than conventional systems. A P25 Phase 2 trunked radio system provides two talk paths per channel as compared to one talk path per channel for conventional systems and due to system automation, trunked radio systems are more efficient in the way that they assign radio channels.
3. The recommended system substantially addresses stakeholder requirements for an estimated capital cost of $48.7 million, 15-year operational cost of $32.6 million, and a total estimated cost of $81.3 million.

General Services' staff recommends the following:

1. Receive and file the Public Safety Radio System Project Report prepared by Federal Engineering.
2. Execute attached PSA (Attachment 2) with Federal Engineering, a leading specialist in public safety mobile radio consulting, to develop specifications and manage the RFP for the Public Safety Radio Replacement System. This was identified in the Request for Proposal as Phase 3 and 4.
3. Select most qualified and responsive proposal, based on evaluation managed by Federal Engineering and key County stakeholders.

4. Return to the Board to discuss funding and phasing options for the Public Safety Radio System Replacement, estimated return date is October 2019.

**Performance Measure:**

As outlined in Section 7 Standard of Performance in the Agreement for Services, Federal Engineering continues to perform in the manner and according to the standards observed by a competent practitioner of the same profession. Federal Engineering has performed per agreement and it is anticipated the quality of their product will meet the County's expectations.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

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Narrative:

The Professional Services Agreement will be funded by Fund 1919 Communication Services Internal Service Fund, Capital Assets, and is not to exceed $86,997.00. The funding has accumulated from depreciation collected for the radio system. Since this fund is an ISF, the funding indirectly includes General Fund sources.

**Key Contract Risks:**
N/A

**Staffing Impacts:** None

**Special Instructions:**

Provide two (2) duplicate originals of the PSA and a Minute Order to Carl Thornton, Communications Manager, General Services Department.

**Attachments:**

1. Public Safety Radio Replacement Project Report prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc.
2. Profession Services Agreement with Federal Engineering, Inc. (1 Original; 1 Duplicate Original)

**Authored by:**
Carl Thornton, Communications Manager, General Services Department