



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:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**For Agenda Of:** November 19, 2019  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Tme:** 30 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**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 Network Replacement Project Update - All Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form:

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the Public Safety Radio Network (PSRN) replacement project update, prepared by the County Department of General Services;
- b) Authorize the release of the Request for Proposal; 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 Network is at the end of its vendor-supported life and is in need of replacement. On February 5, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved a Professional Services Agreement with Federal Engineering, Inc. to write the specifications (Phase 3), and to conduct a request for proposal (RFP) process (Phase 4) for replacing the Public Safety Radio Network.

The specifications along with the Request for Proposal documents are now complete, and a schedule of next steps has been identified:

1. Release RFP – November 2019
2. RFP Conference and Mandatory site visits – December 2019

3. RFP Response Due – April 2020
4. Vendor Interviews – May 2020
5. Selection and Return to the Board, July 2020

**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, which make up the County's Public Safety Radio Network, are in different stages of their lifecycle, and each have varying technologies and capabilities. The County needs to replace the Public Safety Radio Network as it is at the end of its useful life. The replacement network 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 Inc. has completed Phase 3, developing the RFP requirements for the Public Safety Radio Network and is ready for Phase 4, RFP process to select a qualified vendor.

Federal Engineering's recommendation based on Phase 1 and Phase 2 work included the following factors:

1. The UHF Project 25 (P25) trunked system is the latest standards-based Land Mobile Radio (LMR) technology designed for use by public safety organizations in North America.
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 \$45.35 million, 15-year operational cost of \$32.6 million, and a total estimated cost of \$77.95 million.

**Next Steps**

General Services' staff recommends the following:

1. Receive the update regarding the Public Safety Radio Network replacement project.
2. Approve releasing the RFP.
3. Develop and pursue the following funding options:
  - a. Vendor Lease/Purchase (15 Year Financing): The RFP includes vendors to provide 15 years lease purchase options as part of their RFP response.
  - b. Certificate of Participation
  - c. Grants (Example: Homeland Security): Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is reviewing either an internal or external grant writer to pursue any available grants.
4. Update stakeholders
5. Select most qualified and responsive proposal, based on evaluation managed by Federal Engineering and key County stakeholders.
6. Return to the Board to discuss funding and phasing options for the Public Safety Radio System Replacement, estimated return date is July 2020.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The Certificate of Participation (COP) is likely the most cost effective funding option for this project. However, a vendor lease/purchase option will be evaluated for cost efficiencies. Grant opportunities will also continue to be explored and evaluated.

### **Vendor Lease/Purchase (15 Year Financing)**

The Vendor Lease/Purchase option will allow the County to spread costs out over a 15-year period, instead of purchasing equipment for a substantial up-front cost. The RFP will ask the vendors for municipal lease/purchase options with monthly rental costs with a fixed purchase value at the end of the lease.

### **Certificate of Participation (COP)**

The Certificate of Participation opportunity allows the County to explore a tax-exempt lease-financing agreement option that is sold to investors as securities resembling bonds. In a COP program, a trustee is typically appointed to issue the securities that represent a percentage interest in the right to receive payments under the lease-purchase contract. Investors that participate in the program are given a certificate that entitles each investor to a share, or participation, in the revenue generated from the lease-purchase of the equipment to which the COP is tied. The lease and lease payments are passed through the lessor to the trustee, who oversees the distribution of the payment to the certificate holders on a pro-rata basis.

### **Grants (Example: Homeland Security)**

Grants could pay for some capital costs related to public safety radio communications systems, upgrades, and equipment. Each year, Homeland Security produces a list of federal grants funding emergency communications. General Services is reviewing options for an internal or external grant writer to help apply for next year's available Federal Grants.

### **Key Contract Risks:**

N/A

### **Staffing Impacts:** None

### **Special Instructions:**

None

### **Attachments:**

Public Safety Radio Replacement - BOS Update Nov 2019.pptx

### **Authored by:**

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