

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR 800 MHZ TRUNKED RADIO EQUIPMENT, PAGERS, AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

The 800 MHz trunked radio system provides for interoperable communication between City work groups and departments, as well as with the Story County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State University, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and all Story County emergency responders. On June 8, 2010, City Council awarded a contract to Electronic Engineering Co. for 800 MHz trunked radio equipment, pagers, and related equipment and services for City departments. The contract provides for lease of general radio equipment, law enforcement equipment, equipment installation and maintenance, and paging equipment and services through June 30, 2012. **The contract allows for an additional one year extension with no price increase to the City.** The agreement also allows City departments to continue to receive radio services provided locally by Electronic Engineering Co. There has been one change order to the contract adding an additional radio option.

Radio equipment furnished under the contract includes portable and vehicle radios, base station radios, and specialized law enforcement communication equipment. The City currently has approximately 354 radios and 65 pagers leased under this contract. The total annual cost for radio and pager equipment and related services is approximately \$190,000.

Public safety departments are the largest users of the City radio contract and interoperable communication with agencies throughout the county is crucial. A Radio User Group representing all City departments using the radio system has reviewed current service needs and concluded that continued use of existing equipment and services is in the City's best interests for the near term.

The proposed contract with Electronic Engineering Co. allows for a one year extension beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013. Equipment and other prices are unchanged from the contract awarded in 2010. While the equipment is now aging and the technology is older, the Radio User Group is suggesting that the scale of changes will require a long term strategy involving the exploration of new radio systems and public-private partnerships developing in adjacent counties.

The Radio User Group is in the process of evaluating communication systems and providers and looking for options that are available in the area which would be a long-term alternative to the City's existing system. There are changes in technology and new Federal regulations the City to will need to consider, but this is likely to involve a longer

term plan and significant investment. Many area communities and counties, as well as the State entities, are currently struggling with this issue. Until a feasible plan can be established and implemented, continuation of the existing radio contract is in the City's best interests.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the contract with Electronic Engineering Co. to provide 800 MHz trunked radio equipment, pagers, and related equipment and services for City departments from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.
2. Reject the contract with Electronic Engineering Co. and attempt to purchase radio and pager services on an as-needed basis until the City can negotiate a new radio agreement.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed one-year contract for radio and pager equipment and services will insure continuation of critical interactive communication between City work groups and departments as well as with the Story County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State University, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and all Story County emergency responders.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the contract extension with Electronic Engineering Co. to provide 800 MHz trunked radio equipment, pagers, and related equipment and services for City departments from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.