

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR MOBILE DATA TERMINALS**

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2010-11 Capital Improvements Plan includes a project for acquisition of four Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) to be installed in front-line Fire Department apparatus.

Integrating MDT's into the department's first response emergency vehicles will help responders implement immediate plans of action even while enroute to incidents. Equipping fire apparatus with MDT's will provide incident commanders with the ability to advise entry crews on hazards associated with buildings and in the future may provide them access to highly detailed and thorough floor plan layouts. This system also will open the door for development of integrated pre-incident planning, which can ultimately become the foundation for decision-making during an emergency situation. This data will provide important tools to assist the incident commander in developing appropriate strategies and tactics for managing an incident.

The City recently received word from the Department of Homeland Security that a \$51,000 grant had been awarded to the City for the purchase of four MDT's and associated infrastructure costs. This would be an 80/20 matching grant. The Story County E-911 Board has agreed to fund the City's 20% local match of \$10,200, which allows the MDT's to be acquired at no direct cost to the City. The \$18,500 of annual costs associated with the operation the MDT's have been included in the Fire Department's approved 09/10 budget.

The Police Department currently has MDT's installed in its patrol cars. Accepting this grant will permit the Fire Department to purchase interoperable equipment that will coordinate with the current Police system, making the transfer of data between departments more accessible and improving overall service to our citizens.

This grant will allow the Fire Department to purchase several necessary items over the next year that will assist in establishing and facilitating a pre-planning system, including:

- Four Mobile Data Terminals (one for each front line apparatus)
- Needed mounting hardware
- FireHouse Preplanning software
- Wireless access cards and Verizon mobile data plans
- SQL server and software to run FireHouse

Purchases from this grant will be delayed until near the end of the one year grant period. This delay will afford the Fire Department time to work on developing needed preplanning procedures and will better mesh with the data management process currently being developed for the Police Department.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the agreement accepting an “Assistance to Firefighters” grant in the amount of \$51,000 from the Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of four Mobile Data Terminals for fire apparatus.
2. Do not authorize acceptance of this grant.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

By authorizing the acceptance of this grant funding to purchase four MDT's, the Fire Department will be able to implement an economical solution to improved firefighter safety and incident commander awareness, gaining *real-time* access to critical incident-related information regarding structural elements, physical concerns, weather issues, or content hazards.

Implementing MDT's in four first response emergency vehicles will allow the Fire Department to set up the needed infrastructure and implement incident pre-planning. The ongoing costs will be included within the department's operating budget.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby accepting an Assistance to Firefighters grant in the amount of \$51,000 for the purchase of four Mobile Data Terminals for fire apparatus.