COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE FOR SHARED PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BACKGROUND:

The City, Story County and Iowa State University share a public safety information management system. The system includes computer aided dispatch, records management, and related criminal justice software. Representatives from Story County, the City of Ames and Iowa State University form a joint management group known as the MultiAgency Public Safety Group (MAPSG). A 28E Intergovernmental Agreement establishes the operations and funding of MAPSG with the City acting as the lead agency, hosting and maintaining software and hardware for the system.

In February of 2011, after a procurement process by MAPSG, the City Council approved the purchase of new public safety management software, OSSI public safety information management system, at a cost of $419,543. Funding for the software includes $210,065 from a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant, $30,000 from the E911 Board, $61,900 from Story County (specifically to fund the jail software), and the remaining $117,578 shared equally among the members. The member agencies also share the ongoing costs for the information management system.

In the spring of 2011, the MAPSG completed the purchase of the new information management system from OSSI. The first steps in the implementation of the OSSI system are the configuration, purchase, and setup of the servers and other computer hardware that will support the system. As staff worked on the implementation process, changes in the hardware configuration were identified that will improve the system's hardware redundancy and recoverability in the event of disasters.
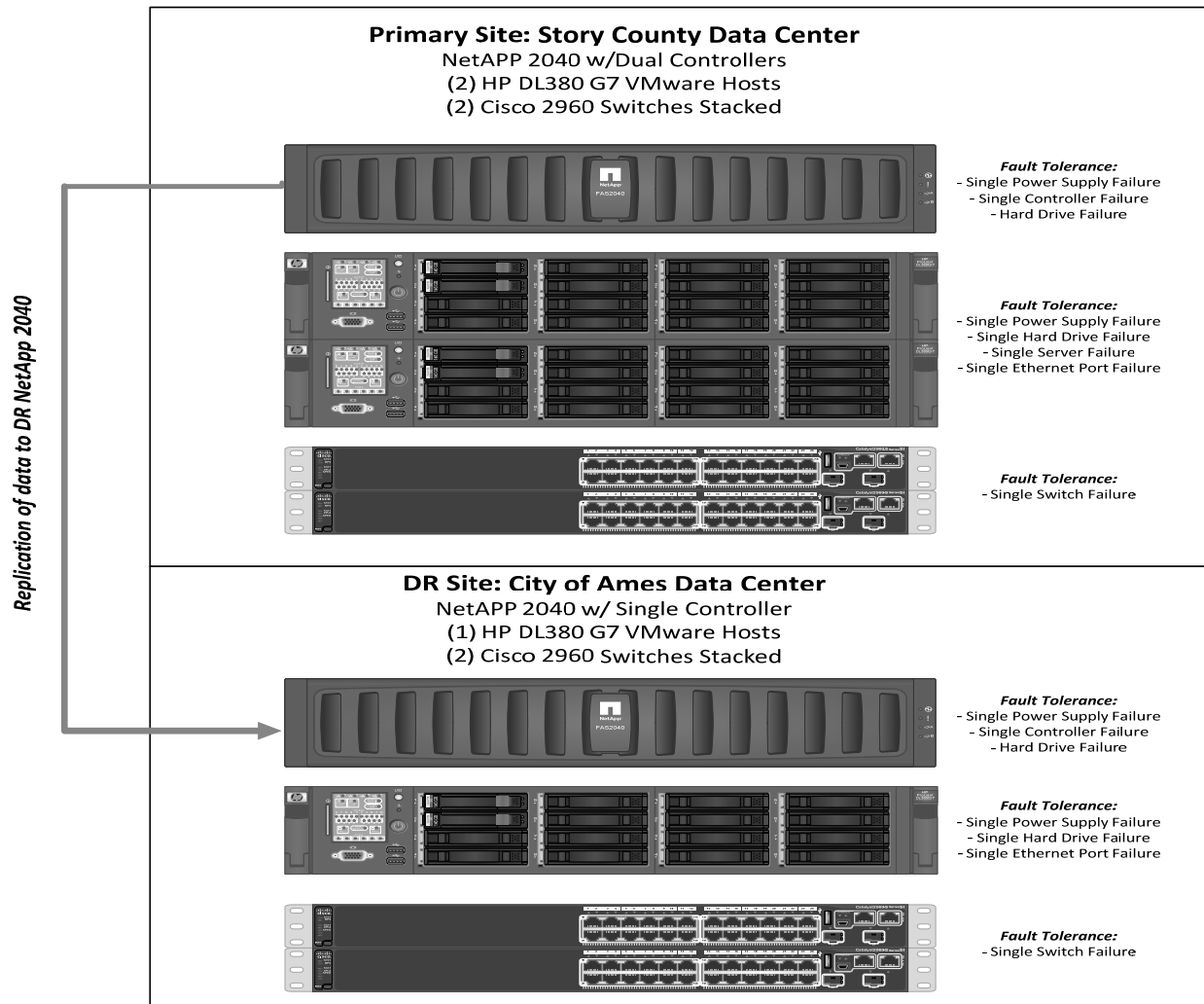
Improvements provided by the proposed new hardware include:

Redundancy - Protection against typical hardware and software failures that may cause parts of the system to fail. Examples include hard drive failure or power supply failure.

Disaster Recovery - Protection necessary to provide for rapid and orderly recovery from physical destruction or catastrophic failure of the public safety information management system. The servers will be housed in Nevada and Ames.

Changes in the hardware configuration provide the best possible coverage from both types of potential failures by housing two VMware® virtual servers, a NetApp® FAS2000 dual controller storage appliance, and two Cisco switches in Nevada, and a single VMware® virtual server, a NetApp® FAS2000 single controller storage appliance, and one Cisco switch in Ames. Day-to-day, the system would operate on the two VMware® servers in Nevada. This configuration would ensure that a power supply failure, a hard drive failure, or

a switch failure would likely have little effect on the operations of the system. Recovery would be immediate or within a few minutes. The total cost of the hardware required to implement these improvements is $184,606.

MAPSG considered several other options that were less expensive. The first alternative eliminated the redundancy and cost $17,000 less than this recommendation. The second alternative eliminated disaster recovery and cost $54,100 less. After reviewing the options, MAPSG recommended the purchase of the full system with the greatest protection. The options and recommendation were presented to the chief officer of each of the law enforcement agencies and they accepted the recommendation.

This request seeks to allow the funds from the MAPSG depreciation account to be used to complete the purchase of the hardware and supporting software for this project. The depreciation funds were contributed equally by Ames, Story County, and Iowa State University to fund the replacement of the equipment that supports the current CAD system. The current balance in the depreciation fund is $247,395. The purchase of this equipment meets the established, intended use of the depreciation account for MAPSG.

Purchase of this equipment will increase the ongoing costs because the expense for the next generation of equipment will be higher than originally budgeted. The increase will be shared equally by each of the involved agencies and will result in an estimated $5,500 additional annual depreciation expense to each agency.

This request is to allow for the purchase of $184,606 in additional equipment to support the redundancy and recoverability of the OSSI public safety information management system.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the purchase of $184,606 in additional equipment to support the redundancy and recoverability of the OSSI public safety information management system.

2. Do not approve the purchase of $184,606 in additional equipment to support the redundancy and recoverability of the OSSI public safety information management system.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the purchase of $184,606 in additional equipment to support the redundancy and recoverability of the OSSI public safety information management system, the City is protecting against typical hardware and software failures and providing for the recovery from the physical destruction of some of the hardware components in the event of a disaster.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the purchase of $184,606 in additional equipment to support the redundancy and recoverability of the OSSI public safety information management system.