

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH HUXLEY TO JOIN
MULTIAGENCY PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORK**

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department, Story County Sheriff's Office, and Iowa State University Police share public safety information across a jointly operated computer network. In 2011, those agencies acquired a comprehensive suite of public safety data management software through a company then known as SunGard. The SunGard suite included computer aided dispatch, records management, jail management, and mobile data elements.

In addition to the software, the agencies now also operate a sophisticated public safety computer network that ties the agencies together. The software and the network it operates on is managed by an interagency group known as the MultiAgency Public Safety Group (MAPSG). The MAPSG network allows the agencies to share law enforcement information quickly and securely. It also provides a redundancy that protects each of the individual agencies from loss of service or data in emergency situations.

The original purchase of the SunGard software in 2011 was structured such that the City of Ames signed the master contract with SunGard and became the owner of the software licenses. Story County and Iowa State University signed Agency Access Agreements with SunGard and the City that gave them full access to the software. The arrangement allowed SunGard to invoice the City for all annual fees. The City then reallocates the SunGard costs, adds costs for the network, and bills the participating departments for their share of the total costs. The Story County 911 Service Board also provides funding to support part of the dispatching function of the public safety network. The system has worked well since its inception.

Over the past few years several additional agencies, including Story County Conservation, Ames Fire, and Mary Medical Center, have been granted limited access to the public safety network, primarily for the purpose of facilitating quicker dispatching or to gather information from the dispatch system. Those additional agencies pay for the costs directly related to the addition of their agency.

For some time the three primary law enforcement agencies have recognized that there would be value in adding the three smaller law enforcement agencies in Story County to the network (the Huxley Police Department, the Story City Police Department, and the Nevada Police Department). All three are currently dispatched by the Story County Sheriff's Office. Therefore, all three already have a presence in the MAPSG dispatching software.

All three agencies have expressed a desire to join and have taken steps to achieve that goal. The three new agencies have agreed that to join the network, each would need to pay for its own computer hardware, any license fees associated with the expansion of the system and network software, connectivity costs, and an amount equal to 15% of their license fees (with a minimum of \$1,200) to support the costs of the network. A federal grant was used to acquire two records management, mobile field reporting, and mobile field arrest licenses for each agency to help get them started on the process. MAPSG has approved the addition of the new agencies.

The Huxley Police Department is the first of the three new agencies to be ready to join the public safety network. A Memorandum of Agreement has been developed to detail the terms of access to and continued participation in the public safety network. Because the City holds the master contract for the software, the agreement is between the City of Ames and the City of Huxley. In addition, SunGard will require Huxley (and eventually the other new agencies) and the City to sign a new agency access agreement. The City Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved both documents. Staff anticipates that Story City and Nevada will be ready to join later this year.

The original purchase of the software suite was from SunGard. Shortly after the original purchase the vendor transitioned to Superion. That name was associated with the vendor until recently when they again transitioned to CentralSquare. The agency access agreement still carries the name Superion at the vendor's request.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement and Agency Access Agreements with the Huxley Police Department allowing access to the public safety network.
2. Do not approve the Memorandum of Agreement and Agency Access Agreements with the Huxley Police Department.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The addition of the Huxley Police Department to the public safety network will benefit both Huxley and the existing members of MAPSG by allowing for more efficient exchange of criminal justice and emergency response information. That addition would be achieved without additional cost to the City.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Memorandum of Agreement and Agency Access Agreements with the Huxley Police Department allowing access to the public safety network.