

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 03/19/12

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** Purchase of Police Department Radios for Operation on the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS)

**REPORT BY:** Mike McQuiston, Chief of Police  
Daniel Adams, Police Lieutenant

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the purchase of thirty-seven (37) Motorola APX6000 portable radios and fourteen (14) Motorola APX 6500 mobile radios in the amount of \$ 193,491.49 from Motorola Solutions, Inc.

**BACKGROUND**

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements mandate that public safety radio systems operating in UHF or VHF must be upgraded or replaced by January 1, 2013 to meet FCC narrow banding requirements. The existing Albany PD VHF radio system is not narrow banded, nor is the emergency dispatch center radio equipment used to dispatch police, fire and emergency medical services. In its current state, this radio system will no longer be permitted by FCC regulations after the end of 2012. Consequently, the Albany Police and Fire Departments need to replace their existing radio systems to comply with these requirements.

The EBRCS was created as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) on September 11, 2007, with the goal of developing and operating a state of the art radio communications system that would provide regional public safety interoperability and meet FCC narrow band requirements. The new system will replace a patchwork of systems currently in use in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and allow for interoperability between agencies. The City of Albany is a founding member of the JPA, having joined by City Council resolution 07-52 on September 4, 2007. Currently there are 39 member agencies from both counties, including 30 cities, 5 special districts, and the University of California, serving a population of over 2.5 million people.

EBRCS build out is projected to be complete during 2012: police and fire will then begin operating on the new system. As a member of the EBRCS, the Albany Police Department must purchase and configure portable and mobile radios which meet the P-25 phase II standard in order to operate on the system when it becomes operational later this year.

**DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS**

The EBRCS will fully fund and provide the two dispatch consoles in the Albany Police Department Public Safety Communications Center at no cost to the City. However, the City of Albany is responsible for the acquisition of radios for our vehicles (mobiles) and for individual use by our officers (portables). City Council recently authorized a similar radio equipment purchase for Albany Fire department operation on the EBRCS.

• *Mobile Radios*

Police management obtained a cost quotation for fourteen (14) mobile radios and associated software and equipment for installation in thirteen vehicles, and the remaining mobile radio will be utilized as a base station in the dispatch center. Such base stations are required in the event that a major incident disables the EBRCS P-25 trunking system and Albany dispatchers are required to communicate directly to responding police personnel via the base station. As indicated on the attached quotation (see Attachment A), the total cost for the mobile radios, software, associated equipment, and installation is \$55,617.80.

• *Portable Radios*

The City of Albany Police Department has obtained a cost quotation for thirty-Seven (37) portable radios, software, and associated equipment. As indicated on the attached quotation (see Attachment B), the total cost for the portable radios, software, associated equipment, and installation is \$137,873.69.

Police department staff attended a vendor fair hosted at the Alameda County Emergency Operations Center on 11/3/2011 and met with the vendors EF Johnson, Kenwood, Motorola, Relm, Tait, and Thales. Only Motorola offered functional demonstration mobile and portable radios at the vendor fair. The other vendors did not have radios which were compatible with the system requirements of the EBRCS at the time of the vendor event. In addition, Motorola was the only vendor that provided demonstration radios that could be field tested. These radios were tested in Albany by Police and Fire Department staff and met or exceeded all of our expectations and requirements. The life expectancy of the mobile radios is 15 years while the life expectancy of the portables is at least ten years.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Minimal impact, however police staff has spoken to the selected equipment vendor to obtain an assurance all that existing radios and batteries taken on trade for credit will be recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

<u>Radio Count</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fourteen	Mobiles	APX6500	\$ 55,617.80, tax included
Thirty-seven	Portables	APX6000	\$137,873.69, tax included
Total			\$193,491.49

The police department will utilize Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) grant program funding to cover 100% of the radio equipment purchase cost.

Agencies throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are currently in the purchase process for similar radio equipment from Motorola for the project. Delaying the decision to purchase radios may increase the price due to the sunset of the trade-in promotion, as well as a likely price increase on the radios: there is also uncertainty of future COPS Grant fund availability. Any delay will likely also impact our ability to receive the radios, install, program, and train all personnel on their use, and have them operational prior to system implementation.

**Attachments**

- A. APX 6500 mobile radios quote
- B. APX 6000 portable radios quote
- C. EBRCSA Newsletter - February, 2012