

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** June 13, 2022

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution Approving a Fourth Amendment to the City-County Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to Establish the Roles for the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County Regarding the Purchase and Implementation of a New Public Safety Radio Communications System

**Strategic Focus Area:** Safe and Secure Community  
**Strategic Objective:** Improve Public Safety Service Quality  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** Yes



**Summary of Information:**

As part of the City’s 2000 bond referendum, a City-County shared public safety radio communications system was purchased and included eight tower sites, communications consoles, and master network equipment. This system is 20 years old and at the end of its useful life, is no longer supported by the manufacturer, is experiencing more frequent repairs, and the County Interagency Communications Department, which operates and maintains the system, is unable to acquire replacement parts. Staff estimate that the cost to replace the system would total \$18 million.

A new public safety radio communications system is crucial to the efficient and effective delivery of emergency response, including law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical response. Other non-emergency functions such as public works, facilities maintenance, and public health also rely on the system.

In November 2018, City voters approved a \$122 million bond referendum that included \$9 million for the City’s share of a new public safety radio communications system. Over the last

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	Finance 6/13/22	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

few years, City and County staff have engaged a consultant, Mission Critical Partners, to review the existing system and research plans for future upgrades. As a result of that research, the City and County team, led by the County Interagency Communications Department, decided to seek replacement of the current Motorola ASTRO Digital Smartnet 800-Mhz Simulcast Trunked Radio System with state-of-the-art P25 Technology, which provides for enhanced interoperability.

The County issued a Request for Proposals in the summer of 2021 and received responses from three vendors—Motorola Solutions, JVC Kenwood, and Communications International/L3 Harris. After scoring the proposals and listening to presentations from each vendor, the City and County team unanimously recommended awarding a contract to Motorola Solutions, which is the manufacturer of the current system. The contract will include investments in primary and secondary core infrastructure, P25 simulcast sites, dispatch consoles, other facilities and infrastructure, and installation and professional services. In addition, the contract will include the purchase of new and replacement subscriber units (e.g., portable and mobile radios) for City and County public safety and non-public safety departments, as well as a new fire station alerting system. The County Interagency Communications Department staff was able to negotiate over \$15 million in purchase incentives, bringing the final system price to \$18,094,483. While the cost of the fixed network equipment and infrastructure will be split equally between the City and County, the cost of dispatch consoles, fire station alerting, and subscriber units will be split based on the needs of City and County departments.

The following table provides the cost-sharing breakdown between the City and County.

	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>City</b>
System Infrastructure	\$13,009,132	\$6,504,566	\$6,504,566
Dispatch Consoles	2,481,791	1,453,000	1,028,791
Fire Station Alerting	2,047,136	1,082,074	965,062
Public Safety Subscriber Units <i>(Number of Units)</i>	14,657,501 <i>(2,369)</i>	8,716,969 <i>(1,417)</i>	5,940,532 <i>(952)</i>
Non-Public Safety Subscriber Units <i>(Number of Units)</i>	1,417,966 <i>(545)</i>	278,814 <i>(118)</i>	1,139,152 <i>(427)</i>
IAC Subscriber Units (13)	58,380	29,190	29,190
Vendor Credits	(15,577,423)	(8,543,633)	(7,033,790)
<b>Total Cost</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>\$18,094,483</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>\$9,520,980</b> <b>(53%)</b>	<b>\$8,573,503</b> <b>(47%)</b>

#### IAC – Interagency Communications

The City’s share of the system cost (\$8.6 million) is under the \$9 million included in the 2018 bond referendum. The remaining funds will be reserved for contingency to address any unforeseen needs that may arise during project implementation.

The City and the County previously entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the current 800-Mhz Trunked Radio System in June 2002 and subsequently amended the agreement in September 2002, January 2004, and May 2007

for the joint establishment of the system. The attached resolution would approve a fourth amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to establish the City's and County's respective roles in the replacement and upgrading of the current system.