



Staff Report

RE: Motorola Portable Radio Purchase

Department/Program: Police

Explanation:

Our current portable radios were provided in 2013 by the St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission, using funding from the county's 0.1% Emergency Communications sales tax approved in the early 2000s. At that time, the Commission authorized the purchase of radios for all police and fire agencies in St. Louis County. Under the agreement, each individual agency is responsible for replacing its own radios.

Our existing portable radios have reached the end of their functional lifespan. As a result, replacement parts are increasingly difficult to obtain when repairs are needed. We are proposing to begin a phased replacement of these radios over the next two years.

The replacement process was previously delayed because the Commission had not yet approved a standard replacement radio for the county system. The Commission has now approved the Motorola APX N70 as the designated replacement model. Motorola is the sole-source provider of radios compatible with the St. Louis County communications network.

Motorola has provided a quote of \$279,894.46 to replace 42 portable radios, at a cost of \$6,664.15 per unit. This pricing includes a \$900 trade-in credit per existing radio.

The City budgeted \$90,000 in 2025 for portable radio replacement; however, those funds were not used due to the lack of an approved radio model at that time. In 2026, an additional \$187,600 has been budgeted for this purpose.

This purchase will equip all uniformed patrol officers with new portable radios. The remaining 13 radios used by support and command staff are planned for replacement in 2027. Our current radios will remain operational on the network in the interim.

Recommendation: We recommend the Board approve the purchase of 42 Motorola portable radios in the amount of \$279,894.46 for use by the Police Department. Motorola is the sole-source provider for radios compatible with the St. Louis County communications network.

Submitted By: John Bergfeld, Chief of Police

Date: March 17, 2026