
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire/EMS

FROM: K.T. Freeman, Fire Chief

MEETING: June 5, 2023

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of a contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. through a cooperative purchasing agreement with the City of Fort Worth for the purchase of 23 Motorola APX Next XE portable radios, associated equipment, services, and subscriptions in the amount not to exceed \$188,650.71 (Staff Contact: K.T. Freeman, Fire Chief)

SUMMARY:

Burleson Fire/EMS system has been using Motorola portable radios since 2009. However, these radios have reached the end of their lifespan, and in a matter of time replacement parts and servicing will become unavailable. Additionally, the main radio infrastructure operated through Johnson County has been experiencing frequent outages. For example, the Johnson County radio system lacks redundancy, meaning there is no radio backup system in case of a failure. Most recently, the Johnson County primary radio system failed during a weather event while Burleson firefighters were dispatched to simultaneous reported structure fires caused by lightning strikes. Upon arrival at each incident fire crews were faced with fire conditions that required aggressive interior fire attack operations without the benefit of any of the primary radio channels working. The lack of the ability to receive and transmit vital communication during emergency operations, places our firefighters in an unacceptable and increased risk to injury.

The Burleson public safety radio system has a limited-capacity backup system with only three channels and is used when the primary system is down and is only accessible to Burleson Public Safety Personnel. Although available, during interior fire operations it is not prudent to expect or plan for fire crews to successfully switch to our back up system. In other words, our back up provides value when the primary system is down, however it is not seamless during operations, and does not have interoperability capabilities between Burleson units and surrounding mutual aid providers.

In order to immediately address the unreliability of the primary radio system and to provide more robust seamless redundant backup capabilities, Burleson Fire/EMS is requesting an upgrade to the Motorola APX Next XE portable radio by purchasing 23 units and associated charging equipment and First Net Services. This new radio has all the features of our current radios and includes a redundant system that utilizes cellular technology. During radio system outages, the APX Next XE radio seamlessly transfers operations to the cellular system, ensuring

uninterrupted communication. This upgrade not only provides our firefighters with some of the most reliable advanced communication technology, it will allow seamless interoperability with all Johnson County ESD units, in addition to Fort Worth Fire Department units, since both organizations have begun transitioning their respective departments to the Motorola's APX Next XE portable radio. Funding for the purchase of this request is through ARPA funding contained within the Fire Departments current FY 22/23 budget.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve request as submitted
- 2) Approve request with modifications
- 3) Deny request

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of request as submitted

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Operating Budget 1012201 70025

STAFF CONTACT:

K.T. Freeman
Fire Chief
ktfreeman@burlesontx.com
817-426-9171