



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Committee of the Whole/Common Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 6, 2026

Item Title: Resolution to join the Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Communication System for Dodge County, Wisconsin

Submitted By: Scott Hazeltine, Columbus Fire Chief

Detailed Description of Subject Matter: FY2026 Interoperable Radio Grant Program

Key Information:

- **Grant Program:** FY2026 Interoperable Radio Grant Program
- **Cost Share/Match:** 20% Local Cash Match required. Maximum 80% State Share.
- **Match Requirements:**
 - Cash match only.
 - Funds must remain local and not be from other State or Federal Grant programs.
 - Match must cover eligible expenses under the grant program.
 - Governing body resolution or written commitment required, indicating intent to spend 20% of the total grant awarded.
- **Application Deadline:** January 15, 2026, 11:59 pm.
- **Budget Availability:** Funds not needed until 2027, per Dodge County Emergency Management.
- **Maximum Funding:** \$50,000 per entity, requiring a \$10,000 Local Match.

Proposed Project Details (as of 11/13/2025):

- **Immediate Need:** Replacing all apparatus and base radios and 3 Chief portable radios.
- **Estimated Cost:** \$47,854.40
- **Future Project (2027):** Replacing all Officer radios (other than the 3 previously mentioned) and possibly all seated positions for portable radios.
- **Communication Improvement:** Current communication with Dane County is on an unmonitored channel; this project aims to increase Firefighter safety.

Main Themes:

- **Funding Opportunity:** The grant provides a significant opportunity to upgrade radio equipment.
- **Local Commitment:** Securing the required Local Match is crucial for application success.
- **Phased Approach:** The project is likely to be implemented in phases, with immediate needs addressed first, and further upgrades planned for 2027.
- **Enhanced Safety:** A key driver for the project is improving Firefighter safety through better communication capabilities.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached: Draft Copy of Resolution 1-26.

Action Requested of Council: Approval of the Resolution, to move forward with the Grant opportunity with Dodge County.

Strategic Plan Objective: Objective 4 Utilize all financial tools available.