

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Redundant Communications Equipment and Services for Homeland Security/Emergency Management (Annual Contract) – State of Georgia Technology Authority and Federal GSA Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the annual contract for the purchase of redundant communications equipment and services from **AT&T Mobility National Accounts LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET** (Hanover, MD) and **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink** (Hawthorne, CA). Purchases of equipment and services will be made at the current established rates at the time of purchase. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via State of Georgia Technology Authority contract #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 and Federal GSA Contract # 47QRAA21D007N.

The goal of the Homeland Security/Emergency Management Department is to have redundant communications during and emergency and times of disaster. One way to accomplish redundant communications is to have devices on the two leading cellular networks (Verizon and AT&T First Net). Currently, CCG has a contract with Verizon so most, if not all cellular phones, internet access hot spots, and SIM cards are on the Verizon network. It is not often, but even Verizon's service is subject to being interrupted. Additionally, the department is seeking to have Starlink (Satellite Internet Service) on the new unified command vehicle once it is delivered.

AT&T has worked hard to develop FIRSTNET which was designed as a public-private partnership in response to the 9/11 disaster. The goal of FIRSTNET is to provide a dedicated 700 MHz frequency band (band 14) for first responders to have access, even when civilian phones may not work. First responders will have priority.

State of Georgia Technology Contract # GTA0000794/ 9800-GTA794-A is a cooperative contract whereby AT&T Mobility National Accounts is one of the awarded vendors contracted to provide Mobility Devices and Services. The term of the contract is good through June 30, 2025. The state renews the contract on a year-to-year basis. The contract is available for use by any Georgia governmental entity. The City's Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink is a new technology satellite service that provides mobile broadband service. Starlink is subscription service that the department will utilize much to provide uninterrupted broadband (internet) service to the mobile command vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with a cradlepoint piece of equipment that will decide

which internet signal is the best, based on location and other factors, and that service is what the vehicle will operate on.

Federal GSA Contract # 47QTCA19DO0MM is a cooperative contract awarded to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink. The term of the contract is good through July 8, 2026, with renewals up to July 8, 2041. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funding for this ongoing expense will be charged to: General Fund – Homeland Security – Homeland Security – Operating Materials; 0101-450-1000-HSEC-6728.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FROM AT&T MOBILITY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET (HANOVER, MD) AND SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION/STARLINK (HAWTHORNE, CA). PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WILL BE MADE AT THE CURRENT ESTABLISHED RATES AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. PURCHASES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE, VIA STATE OF GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY CONTRACT #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 AND FEDERAL GSA CONTRACT # 47QRAA21D007N.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Homeland Security/Emergency Management Department is to have redundant communications during and emergency and times of disaster. One way to accomplish redundant communications is to have devices on the two leading cellular networks (Verizon and AT&T First Net). Currently, CCG has a contract with Verizon so most, if not all cellular phones, internet access hot spots, and SIM cards are on the Verizon network. It is not often, but even Verizon's service is subject to being interrupted. Additionally, the department is seeking to have Starlink (Satellite Internet Service) on the new unified command vehicle once it is delivered; and,

WHEREAS, AT&T has worked hard to develop FIRSTNET which was designed as a public-private partnership in response to the 9/11 disaster. The goal of FIRSTNET is to provide a dedicated 700 MHz frequency band (band 14) for first responders to have access, even when civilian phones may not work. First responders will have priority; and

WHEREAS, State of Georgia Technology Contract # GTA0000794/ 9800-GTA794-A is a cooperative contract whereby AT&T Mobility National Accounts is one of the awarded vendors contracted to provide Mobility Devices and Services. The term of the contract is good through June 30, 2025. The state renews the contract on a year-to-year basis. The contract is available for use by any Georgia governmental entity. The City's Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing; and,

WHEREAS, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink is a new technology satellite service that provides mobile broadband service. Starlink is subscription service that the department will utilize much to provide uninterrupted broadband (internet) service to the mobile command vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with a cradlepoint piece of equipment that will decide which internet signal is the best, based on location and other factors, and that service is what the vehicle will operate on; and,

WHEREAS, Federal GSA Contract # 47QTCA19DO0MM is a cooperative contract awarded to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink. The term of the contract is good through July 8, 2026, with renewals up to July 8, 2041. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the annual contract for the purchase of redundant communications equipment and services from **AT&T Mobility National Accounts LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET** (Hanover, MD) and **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink** (Hawthorne, CA). Purchases of equipment and services will be made at the current established rates at the time of purchase. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via State of Georgia Technology Authority contract #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 and Federal GSA Contract # 47QRAA21D007N. Funding for this ongoing expense will be charged to: General Fund – Homeland Security – Homeland Security – Operating Materials; 0101-450-1000-HSEC-6728.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor