



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: March 11, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consider approving the agreements between the Grand Rapids Police Department and Grand Rapids Fire Department and the Itasca County Radio Board.

PREPARED BY: Captain Jeremy Nelson and Fire Chief Travis Cole

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, Itasca County began transitioning to the ARMER radio system to comply with the federal mandate that all public safety communications be on the 800 MHZ system and to improve radio interoperability amongst public safety agencies in the county.

As part of this project, the Itasca County Radio Board (ICRB) under the Itasca County Sheriff's Office, which is made up from representatives of the different entities on the system, was created as a governance for the system in Itasca County. One goal of the ICRB was to have all Itasca County Public Safety Agencies using the same equipment. Initial purchases of radio equipment were primarily made using grant funding.

The ICRB then created an Amortization Fund in which public safety agencies within the county (referred to as Subscribers) would pay a yearly fee for each radio they have, with the agreement that after 10 years for law enforcement or 15 years for fire/ems agencies they would receive new radios. Law enforcement and fire/ems radios were billed out at a different rate due to the 5-year difference in radio replacement.

In 2011, the City of Grand Rapids signed agreements between the City and the ICRB/ICSO for the Grand Rapids Police Department and the Grand Rapids Fire Department.

In 2017, Motorola presented an opportunity to the ICRB to upgrade all Itasca County Public Safety radios through a program, that was financially beneficial to the ICRB and public safety agencies due to the yearly costs remaining the same.

A need to update the agreements regarding the lease, maintenance, and repair of portable and mobile radios, between the ICRB and public safety agencies was identified as the previous agreements expired in 2021.

The pricing per radio remains the same as the previous agreements, however changes in the quantity of radios have increased due to the changing needs of the departments.

There will be no budgetary change associated with these agreements.

The agreements have been reviewed by the City Attorney.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to approve the agreement between the Grand Rapids Police Department and the Itasca County Radio Board and the agreement between the Grand Rapids Fire Department and the Itasca County Radio Board.