



CITY OF
LONG LAKE

City Council Agenda Report

City of Long Lake

450 Virginia Avenue, PO Box 606
Long Lake, MN 55356

MEETING DATE / November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Approve Upgrade of Water Meter Reading Equipment to the MRX-920 Receiver

Prepared By: Sean Diercks, Public Works Director

Report Date: 11/1/2023

Recommended City Council Action

Staff recommends the following:

Motion to approve upgrading the current water meter reading equipment to the MRX-920 receiver as quoted.

Overview / Background

Back on August 2, 2023 the Public Works Department presented the City Council with a proposal for a necessary upgrade to the City’s meter reading equipment and software. The Council approved the proposal with the exception of the MRX-920 receiver, as advised by staff. The thought process at that time was that staff didn’t want to spend the money on the new receiver until we made sure we needed to do so.

Since the initial August 2 Council meeting, staff has spent time on working on the meter reading equipment/software conversion and has determined the addition of the MRX receiver is a necessary addition to further streamline the meter reading process, especially as we move to implementing a monthly meter reading program.

I’ve seen both the current belt clip receiver and the proposed MRX-920 receiver in action, and hands down, the MRX out-performs the belt clip. I am hopeful and have reason to believe that with the MRX-920, we can reduce monthly meter reading staff time to approximately an hour. For example, we sat in one spot at the intersection of Wayzata Boulevard W and Heather Lane across the street from Council member Joyce’s residence, and read 25% to 30% (220 meters) of all 800 water meters in town in less than a minute from that stationary position alone. With the belt clip in the same scenario, a total of only 12 meters were read in three to five minutes.

Below is a list of the approved versus actual purchases from the August 2, 2023 Council meeting. As you will see below, there were some purchases that were further negotiated by staff after Council approval for further cost savings that totaled \$3,290 which could be applied to purchasing the MRX-920; therefore, only requiring another \$6,110 additional dollars towards the purchase compared to \$9,400.

<u>Cost Breakdown</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Current Actual</u>
Neptune 360 AMR Software	\$1,918	\$1,918
Neptune 360 Set Up Fee	\$2,200	\$2000, minus \$200 after Council approval
MRX-920 Mobile Receiver	\$0	Pending expense, seeking Council approval
Neptune 360 Profile Interface	\$2,495	\$0, negotiated after Council approval
Neptune 360 Interface Support	\$595	\$0, negotiated after Council approval
Laptop/Tablet (Estimated)	\$2,000	\$2,000, pending expense
Sub Total	\$9,208	\$5,918 To-Date

Please remember that staff tried to use the current belt clip receiver that we currently use in order to make an attempt at saving the City from a \$9,400 purchase, but after witnessing the comparison in equipment functionality, the MRX-920 will pay for itself in a matter of months saving on staff time alone reading the water meters.

Staff still needs to decide on which tablet it wants to use with the MRX-920 so that is still listed as a pending expense (likely to come in under \$2,000), along with the MRX-920 listed in the breakdown above as a pending expense for which staff is seeking approval.

Supporting Information

- Ferguson Waterworks equipment proposal