

STAFF REPORT



SUBJECT: Approve a change order to the System Purchase Agreement between the City and L3 Harris

DEPARTMENT: Police/Fire

STAFF CONTACT: Captain Jeff Walker

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Change Order #3 to the System Purchase Agreement

BACKGROUND:

In December of 2021 the City of Stephenville entered into a system purchase agreement with L3 Harris Technologies to implement a new public safety radio system.

As part of our original contract with L3 Harris was the addition of an analog interoperability gateway. This provides for interoperability between different communication systems that use different frequency bands and technologies. In this case, we are upgrading to a new P25 digital trunked system but still need to be able to communicate with older analog systems that operate on VHF and UHF frequency bands such as the Sheriff's Office and other surrounding agencies.

To achieve this interoperability, an interoperability gateway is required. This gateway acts as a bridge between the different communication systems, allowing them to communicate with each other. By acquiring the radios that are compatible with both the new P25 digital trunked system and the older analog systems we will be able to communicate with other radio systems in the area, including those with whom they have mutual aid agreements or during emergencies such as the Erath County Fire Department and Erath County Sheriff's Department.

Per the original contract the Interop gateway was supposed to be installed at the police department and attached to the existing VHF/UHF base station radios. These radios are nearly 20 years old and are the only parts of the existing old radio system we were planning to continue using.

In consideration of moving forward with the Erath County Joint Dispatch Center (ECJDC), we feel that it would be most cost effective in the long term to add additional radios to the Prather tower site. If we move/leave the Interop gateway at the police department that equipment will have to be moved and relocated again to a new location for the ECJDC. Based on the complexity of the system we anticipate that it will cost more to move the Interop Gateway once the system is operational to a new 3rd party location than it would be to install the additional radios at Prather Tower.

Secondly, the location at Prather tower is ideal for the Interop gateway because of its prominent elevated location which receives excellent radio signals and its proximity to the new radio system hardware substructures. If the Interop gateway is installed at Prather tower, then it will not need to be moved or reconfigured for the joint dispatch center. This will minimize future cut-over costs and reduce the complexity for moving to a combined dispatch radio system.

Lastly, adding the new radios will eliminate the older radios and replace them with brand new, top of the line radios that will be covered under warranty and serviceable for the foreseeable future. This ensures that our system is completely integrated into the L3 Harris radio environment. This will reduce our upkeep and maintenance costs in the future, especially when a combined dispatch center is implemented.

The proposed configuration will allow for interoperability within a joint dispatch system, which can improve coordination and communication between different agencies during emergencies or large-scale events. While not part of the budgeted radio project, funding these radios now will reduce the costs of combined dispatch and represent a concrete investment in the future success and operability of both the new public safety radio system and combined dispatch.

L3 Harris has created a 3rd change order for the completion of the Interop portion as well as for additional radio equipment. This change order includes additional radio accessory equipment that both the police and fire departments.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

The total cost of change order #3 is \$110,492.08 with \$48,257.48 due at signing, using the credit balance of \$22,038.72 and the remainder due upon shipment and delivery of equipment. This request is to utilize funding set aside for the creation of the Erath County Joint Dispatch Center.

ALTERNATIVES