



Date: 11/08/2022

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Robert Womack – Emergency Services Coordinator

Title: **2022 Cal-OES High Frequency Radio Grant**

Approved By: _____ Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action:

Council to authorize the purchase of a Codan Envoy High Frequency Base Station Radio and all necessary parts to install the radio in an amount not to exceed \$37,500.00 and authorize a budget amendment to C1208 Police Department Communications and Safety Equipment capital project and amending project revenue to reflect a grant reimbursement for the full amount.

Discussion:

In April 2022, the Town applied for a grant from Cal-OES radio section for a High Frequency radio system. This radio system is designed to act as a “fail-safe” system that does not rely on repeaters or technology infrastructure to communicate long range. With this radio system we can communicate with areas outside of the Truckee basin such as State of Nevada (State DEM and Washoe County OES), Nevada County west side (Nevada County OES), and Sacramento (Cal-OES) along with any agency with a high frequency radio. This system is similar to a ham radio system in that it uses a low frequency band width that allows the signals to be bounced off the ionosphere to travel long distances and would also allow us to send files via packet information, in a totally encrypted format if needed. The idea of this system is to provide a redundant, failsafe communication platform in the event of a complete radio or internet failure.

This grant is a reimbursement which will require us to spend the required amount upfront to purchase the radio and all the associated equipment and then be reimbursed by Cal-OES after the purchase. The radio system is a Codan Envoy HF Base Station sold by NVIS Communications. NVIS Communications is based in California with the radio system manufacturer being based in Australia.

The Codan Envoy radios are used worldwide by public safety and military agencies. Discussions with Cal-OES radio section personnel have indicated this system is being used statewide and the goal of the grant was to develop an interoperable failsafe radio system linking each county OES function. By using the Codon Envoy system, we are part of the implementation of the FCC "State Emergency Capability Using Radio Effectively" ("Operation SECURE") capability which is licensed and operated in accordance with FCC Rules Part 90 - Private Land Mobile Services and in accordance with FCC Public Notice 2419 to the State of California. This system will receive regular updates from Cal-OES as more systems and agencies come on-line. Codan's second generation Digital Voice technology enables the Envoy HF Radio to provide outstanding voice clarity in difficult conditions and has the capability to do both Analog and Digital Voice over HF with the ability to use AES encryption for greater security and performance.

Once installed, this system will require weekly and monthly system checks. The system has a base station and then rides on our Local Area Network (LAN) to have control heads in the EOC. Staff would also note that the radio may be operated on a laptop with connections back to our LAN which provides additional redundancy for the Town's communications system.

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Core Service

Fiscal Impact:

This is a reimbursement grant that will result in a net zero expenditure once we receive the reimbursement.

Public Communication:

Agenda Posting

Attachments:

NVIS Communications Radio Quote