



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### City Council Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** January 18, 2022

**Prepared By:** Chief Michael D. McCoy and Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens

**Agenda Item:** Purchase of Police Radios

**Explanation:** As explained in the EMA Radio communication, Tazewell County is implementing a countywide emergency radio network using the STARCOM21 system.

The state of current Washington Police radio communications is such that there is good general coverage but limited interoperability among agencies. For example, WPD officers frequently operate with Tazewell County deputies but have no mobile radio contact. In some buildings and areas, including some critical locations, WPD officers have no radio service. The STARCOM21 system will alleviate this, as well as provide radio service for officers outside the City. Our officers, particularly our detectives, regularly operate outside the City. For certain now unserved critical locations, the radio model selected overcomes barriers with radio over internet capability.

For future-proofing, the new radio system includes scheduled maintenance and updates specified by an overall state contract. Concurrently, our responsibilities for managing and maintaining a radio system would decrease.

Importantly, our current radio system includes both portable (handheld or body-worn) radios and mobile (in car) radios. Mobile radios have higher power and greater range. The new Tazewell system is designed for true portable-to-portable coverage, eliminating the need for future public safety mobile radio purchases for each car. The current system also includes radios at the police department for use with in-building systems, including the ability to operate a command or dispatch center.

To use the STARCOM21 system with Motorola's proprietary features, we must use Motorola equipment. These features for police will include GPS unit location and identification, encryption, programmed talk groups, and others. As part of the ETSB master contract, Motorola provides pricing that is deeply discounted from list (near a 60% overall discount). As the pricing is tied to list, it is subject to change. We secured a quote for this budgeted item in advance of the change, and that quote is valid through March 28, 2022.

We expect to use a DCEO public safety grant to cover the bulk of this cost. That grant requires delivery of the radios before June 30, 2022. The December delivery estimate was 8 weeks, meaning an order before May 5 would qualify. However, Motorola now indicates that February orders may be backed up further. Supply chain issues are unpredictable and there is little benefit to waiting if doing so could jeopardize over \$100,000 in grant funds, particularly when the "cost" relates to which accounting year we charge the radios.

The radios will be immediately useable, but will not fully solve coverage issues until the Tazewell network is enabled. That target date is June, 2022. We will use our current system until the Tazewell network is functioning.

We expect to capitalize the radios over 7 years, starting in FY 22-23.

We are seeking the Council's approval for the purchase, contingent on grant approval, of the quoted radio package at a cost not to exceed \$124,474.28.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$124,474.28. We expect a state public safety grant to cover \$103,950.72, leaving an overage of \$20,523.56. We expect to cover this amount with unbudgeted Special Projects funds already accrued, which might otherwise be budgeted in the coming fiscal year. We would work with the City Administrator to ensure the availability of funding, including consideration of any funding needed for EMA radios. As this is not budgeted in the current FY, we anticipate the need for a year-end budget amendment.

**Recommendation/**

**Committee Discussion Summary:** Unanimous recommendation based on factors listed.

**Action Requested:** Approval of a motion to authorize this purchase of Motorola radios and programming in an amount not to exceed \$124,474.28, such purchase being authorized only upon notification to the City of approval of the referenced DCEO grant.