



September 8, 2016

Mayor John Dickert
and Common Council
Racine, WI

RE: Request to appear before the Finance & Personnel Committee to obtain permission to waive the formal bidding procedures and contract with Aviat Networks to provide and install microwave equipment to establish a data / communication link between City Hall Annex and the Radio Communication Resources at Regency Mall.

Dear Mayor and Aldermen:

I respectfully request that the formal bidding procedures be waived and the City be authorized to contract with Aviat Networks Inc. to provide and install microwave radio equipment to establish a communication and data link between City Hall Annex and the Police Department's Radio Communication Resources facility at Regency Mall. This link is necessary to provide a direct communication network path between City radio systems and equipment used by Racine Police and Fire Departments. Secondly, this link will extend City data networks for internet, email, TMS, MUNIS, etc. from City Hall to our remote office.

Our request to continue with Aviat Networks is based on several factors.

1. Cost savings.
 - When we purchased Aviat Eclipse microwave equipment for the Summit Tank link in 2012, we purchased spare radio and control equipment to support the network for rapid repair of critical communication systems. Purchasing identical equipment for the new link will save approximately \$8,500, as we will be able to utilize the existing spares to support both systems, and avoid purchasing additional spares.
 - As we are proposing to expand on our current Aviat network equipment, we will be able to rewire and expand the existing interface panels saving an additional \$1,150.
2. Standardization of communication network equipment & procedures.
 - Identical equipment standardizes microwave systems across the City communication network. This will allow us to support, install, and maintain all equipment using the same computer interfaces, tools, controls, connections & diagnostics.
 - Proposed equipment has the capability to directly connect to our existing proprietary Harris/Aviat FARSCAN alarm system for 24/7/365 monitoring by joint dispatch. Most other vendor equipment would require a separate computer-based monitoring system.
3. Evolving First-Responder radio networks, & our reliability experience.



- Proposed Aviat Eclipse equipment is a hybrid design utilizing T1 and IP data transport. This design is uniquely suited to allow us to operate our existing radio systems, as well as establishing a new IP based network that will be necessary for migration to "next-generation" Project 25 digital radio communication systems (2017-2018 Police Department P25 CIP project.)
- Our existing Summit Tank link has proven to be very reliable since install in 2012. By comparison, during the same period, we have seen ongoing reliability and support issues with alternate vendor equipment purchased and installed by another local agency.

Fiscal Note: Estimated cost for the proposed system is \$71,396.00 and funding is available in the 2016-2025 Capital Improvement Plan, Account # 45031.57350 PD-Communications Equipment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Arthel L. Howell
Chief of Police

ALH/mmw

cc: DC M. Schulz
Peter Kinzelman
Kathy Kasper