



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:	December 18, 2018
SUBJECT:	Police Department Radio System Replacement project
PREPARED BY:	Peter Kinzelman, Radio Communication Resources
SUMMARY:	Requesting permission to purchase radio equipment directly from manufacturer. Sole Source.
PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:	<p>The Police department is in the process of upgrading their communication systems from analog to digital radio technology. As part of the radio replacement / digital upgrade project, the City needs to purchase new digital radio base stations & network equipment to replace our aging analog radio systems.</p> <p>New transmitters and equipment are necessary to upgrade our communication systems from older analog voice channels to modern digital standards, and will provide digital voice communications and add new technology data and security features needed by the Police Department.</p> <p>In addition to enhancing our squad-to-squad radio traffic, the new radio systems must also provide direct connections to the Motorola consoles used by Racine County Communication Center to allow them to dispatch our first-responders.</p> <p>During design and engineering of the new PD digital radio systems, interfacing to these County consoles became a primary concern because the consoles process officer unit ID, and emergency call data along with the radio calls. The replacement digital system needs to continue providing this data to the existing consoles for officer safety & radio system security.</p> <p>The radio consoles used by RCCC are Motorola “Centracom Gold Elite” units that use a proprietary data interface and format to transmit and receive voice and data on digital channels. Because these consoles were designed and sold before universal standards had been developed, the consoles do not support non-Motorola equipment when operating in digital mode.</p> <p>Staff researched the console interface issue with several radio vendors and engineers, but were unable to locate another radio manufacturer or solution that has the ability to directly connect digital radio equipment to the County’s Motorola Gold Elite consoles to provide voice and data. Since the RCCC consoles are not owned by the City of Racine, replacing the consoles was not an option.</p>
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	<p>Because the new radio system needs to properly interface to the County owned Motorola consoles, we are requesting to purchase digital radio base stations and network equipment directly from Motorola Solutions as a sole sourced vendor.</p> <p>Staff recommends purchase of the main proposal and attached “Channel 8 option”.</p>
FISCAL NOTE:	Funds for this purchase are available in account 45031 57350 at a cost of \$527,959.