



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 25, 2018*

DATE: Wednesday, September 19, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Quinn Korbulic, IT Manager, Technology Services
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THROUGH: Craig Betts, Chief Information Officer, Technology Services

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount not to exceed [\$26,537,510.68]. If approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount not to exceed [\$26,537,510.68]. If approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

The Nevada Shared Radio System is faced with the immediate need to replace the entire Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system with a system of current and nationally recognized technology. To preserve the current arrangement of shared infrastructure to benefit all within the state, Washoe County, NV Energy and the State of Nevada, acting through its Department of Transportation have cooperated over the last several years to develop and implement a framework of LMR system governance and to select a common manufacturer to replace the statewide LMR system.

The System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications Segment (Harris), is the result of a rigorous procurement process administered by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and several months of negotiations with Harris. If approved, Washoe County, NDOT, and NV Energy will each separately enter into a contract with Harris and together will construct the new statewide LMR system.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities and Regional and Community Leadership

PREVIOUS ACTION

On October 19, 1999 Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District entered into an agreement to establish the Washoe County Regional Communication System.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On June 18, 2002, an amendment to the Washoe County Regional Communications System October 1999 Interlocal agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners to include updates to sponsoring a private provider such as the application process, review and recommendation, final action and governing law and venue.

On April 22, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Nevada Department of Transportation and Washoe County to share the cost of the Hardware Refresh of the Washoe County Regional Communications System Voice Interoperability Data Access (VIDA) communications system switches, in an amount not to exceed [\$500,000].

On October 14, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to provide for the continued development and operation of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS).

On July 14, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming the intent of the State of Nevada, Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) and NV Energy to move forward as a cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project 25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system.

On December 13, 2016 the Board held a second reading adopted an amendment to WCC 5.456 authorizing the Chief Information Officer to negotiate and execute agreements with other public and private entities as are required to assure the continued present and future operation of Washoe County's emergency radio system(s) and to present such agreements to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners for final approval when required by law or policy; and describing that such agreements may include, without limitation, provisions for sharing the use, governance, operation, maintenance, and upgrade of any Washoe County radio system with other public or private entities, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

On May 9, 2017 the Board approved of and directed the Washoe County Manager to sign the Nevada Shared Radio System Contract by and between the State of Nevada acting through its Department of Transportation, NV Energy and Washoe County, Nevada, as recommended by the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS)

BACKGROUND

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation, Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) and NV Energy, partners in the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS), have recognized the need for a shared statewide communications network to be used for daily operations, interagency communication, interoperability and emergency communications. The NSRS has well-established capabilities and shared system use agreements in place. Today's public safety environment has highlighted the need for system owners to work together to establish interoperable communications, recognizing the cost benefit to all parties.

The Department of Transportation, the WCRCs and NV Energy have worked together to establish the current NSRS, a state-wide radio system, with infrastructure owned and maintained by each entity. The NSRS is accessible on communication equipment used by key public service officials, public safety officials and private safety services statewide.

The vendor for the current NSRS infrastructure and subscriber equipment has announced most equipment in use on the NSRS has reached its “product end-of-life.” Wherein the vendor has indicated that it has stopped marketing, manufacturing, selling, and supporting the announced products, and it will no longer guarantee that it will provide replacement parts or fix software issues for those products and vendor support will be severely limited. This poses a significant concern, risk and potential liability for the NSRS system owners and users.

The Nevada Shared Radio System is faced with the immediate need to replace the entire Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system with a system of current and nationally recognized technology. To preserve the current arrangement of shared infrastructure to benefit all within the state, Washoe County, NV Energy and the State of Nevada, acting through its Department of Transportation, have cooperated over the last several years to develop and implement a framework for statewide LMR system governance and to select a common manufacturer to replace the current statewide LMR system.

Based on the “end-of-life” determination, State of Nevada, Washoe County and NV Energy have taken several steps with the end-goal of a public safety Project 25 Phase II communications system from a common manufacturer. As noted in Previous Actions, the three NSRS members entered into the NSRS agreement in May, 2017, which established a governance structure, and a service level agreement for the new NSRS. Subsequently, NDOT released a Request for Proposal (RFP – NDOT RFP 697-16-016) to replace the Nevada Shared Radio System. Review of the proposals was undertaken by representatives from each of the NSRS member agencies. When review was complete, NDOT sent a Notice of Intent to award the agreement to Harris Corporation, pending successful negotiation of the agreement terms and conditions. On September 10, 2018, the NDOT Board approved an agreement between NDOT and Harris Corporation for its portion of the LMR system. NV Energy is also expected to approve its contract with Harris Corporation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve this purchase agreement, a new multi-year capital project will be created that will be funded utilizing a combination of current FY 2019 CIP funds originally allocated for P25 radios (Fund 402), Infrastructure Replacement funds (Regional Communications System Fund 210) and debt financing. A future detailed financing plan will be brought to the Board for review and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount not to exceed [\$26,537,510.68]. If approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount not to exceed [\$26,537,510.68]; and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.