



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: March 31, 2020

DATE: March 4, 2020
TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Phone: (775) 328-6123 Email: cmoore@tmfpd.us
SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County to provides for possible financing, development, operation and management of a new Regional Communications P25 Public Safety Radio System at an estimated cost of \$75,743 for Fiscal Year 20/21 operations plus either a lump sum cost of \$822,155 or an estimated level annual payment of \$70,430 for twenty years which equals to a total amount of \$1,056,449 for infrastructure construction of the system. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County to provides for possible financing, development, operation and management of a new Regional Communications P25 Public Safety Radio System at an estimated cost of \$75,743 for Fiscal Year 20/21 operations plus either a lump sum cost of \$822,155 or an estimated level annual payment of \$70,430 for twenty years which equals to a total amount of \$1,056,449 for infrastructure construction of the system.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

The regional radio system is a mission critical component of public safety services. The current regional radio system “EDACS” which stands for “Enhanced Digital Access Communication System” is nearing end of life; most notable is the difficulty in finding replacement parts to effect repairs. The EDACS radio system is used by firefighters to talk to dispatch, to each other, and to mutual aid partners. There are areas of the County – and areas served by TMFPD that do not have adequate radio coverage. In these areas, firefighters cannot talk to dispatch. Two of these areas are portions of the I-80 corridor east of Sparks, and parts of the Red Rock and Rancho Haven.

The current EDACS system is very near maximum capacity, which means few additional radios for new personnel cannot “fit” into the system. This is true for all user agencies – not just TM. The new radio

system will provide reliability for communications and eliminate the coverage areas and lack of capacity. Coverage will also increase to anywhere in the state of Nevada.

A replacement system has been designed and proposed by Washoe County to meet the needs of all regional public safety agencies into the future. The District has completed integration of its hand held and mobile radios to be compliant with the new system.

There are no purchases of replacement radio equipment necessary for the cross over.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will occur in fiscal year 20/21. There is no fiscal impact on the current year budget. Staff is contemplating a recommendation for the lump sum payment for the infrastructure construction, if allowed based on fiscal year 2021 revenues and expenditures. The District will include the final recommendation with the fiscal year 2021 budget.

The estimated annual operating costs for fiscal year 20/21 are \$75,743. The infrastructure construction portion is either a lump sum amount of \$822,155 or estimated level annual debt service cost of \$70,430 for twenty years which would equal total payments of \$1,056,449.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve an Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County for possible financing, development, operation and management of the Washoe County Regional Communications P25 Radio System and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion could be:

"I move to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County to provide possible financing, development, operation and management of the Washoe County Regional Communications P25 System and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement."