

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 17, 2014

TO Members of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee: Jerry R. Allen (Chair),
Jennifer Staubach Gates (Vice-Chair), Tennell Atkins, Sheffie Kadane, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT Upcoming Agenda Item: Microwave Voice and Data Network Replacement

The January 22, 2014 Council Addendum will include an item to authorize **(1)** an acquisition contract for the purchase of microwave equipment to replace the City's existing microwave radio system in the amount of \$6,284,983, and **(2)** a five year service contract for maintenance and support of the new microwave system in the amount of \$ 1,825,255, total not to exceed \$8,110,238, financed with Homeland Security Grant Funds (\$6,595,070) and Current Funds (\$1,515,168) (subject to annual appropriations).

The overarching goal of the City of Dallas' Emergency Communications is to provide highly efficient, effective and interoperable public safety communications for city and county law enforcement, Fire and EMS agencies and the citizens they serve. The microwave communication system provides voice support for two-way radio communications used in Police, Fire, EMS, Water Utility, Streets, Sanitation, Aviation, Code, and other city departments that depend on reliable communications day-to-day, and during critical events.

Our current microwave network was built in 1996 and is outdated and limited in functionality in the following ways.

- No technical support and replacement parts for break/fix
- Will not support the future P25 standard based radio systems
- Not redundant, so when anything breaks the whole microwave network is inoperable
- Voice only, does not support data and video transmission

This contract will procure new a microwave communication system. Equipment procured will include microwave transmission antennas, receivers, cables, routers, security equipment, new auxiliary power supplies, and other IT related equipment. The design being proposed is a scalable solution to meet the growing demand of new data and voice solutions which will provide the following:

- A redundant solution for the network
- Three times the capacity of the existing system
- Flexibility to expand the network over the next several years, as an alternative to the traditional wired network for data and voice circuits
- Radio connectivity for all the City radios
- Compatibility with the proposed P25 radio network

Another benefit of the new network is that the vendor will assist the City with beginning to build a wireless voice and data microwave network. This initial network will replace telephone and internet land-line service at Police substations and Water Utility plants, thereby saving the cost of monthly land-line services. This network can be expanded in the future to cover additional City facilities.

DATE January 17, 2014
SUBJECT Upcoming Agenda Item: Microwave Voice and Data Network Replacement, Page 2

Please contact Bill Finch at 670-1890 if you have any questions.



Jill A. Jordan, P.E.,
Assistant City Manager

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, Interim City Manager
Warren M.S Ernst, City Attorney
Rosa Rios, City Secretary
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Officer
William Finch, Director/CIO, Communications and Information Services
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager