



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
 January 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief
 Subject: Purchase Order: With Motorola for firehouse alerting system equipment

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to issue purchase orders with Motorola for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 through July 31, 2024 for the purchase of equipment necessary to complete the emergency firehouse alerting retrofit project.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

Any delay in this purchase places the city at risk of experiencing a catastrophic failure of the existing, unsupported firehouse alerting system.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding is available through Measure GG and Measure FF.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Fire Department (Department) is in the middle of an emergency replacement of the alerting system in all of the city's firehouses. Staff were just informed that a critical piece of equipment (a dispatch console and accessories) must be purchased in order to complete the project and transition to the replacement firehouse alerting system.

BACKGROUND

The Department is in the middle of an emergency replacement of the alerting system in all of the city's firehouses with installation complete in five (5) of seven (7) facilities. This system alerts responders over 17,000 times per year of the need to respond to a call for help - a critical piece of the city's 911 system. The current system was failing and the vendor unexpectedly went out of business in 2023 leaving the city with no way to repair the failing system. Council authorized a replacement of the system on June 27, 2023 through resolution No. 70,903-N.S.

The new firehouse alerting system is activated through the city's radio communication infrastructure which is part of the East Bay Regional Communication System Authority (EBRCSA), a shared communications system which was designed to integrate all radio communications amongst the different public safety groups in Alameda and Contra

Costa County. A system of this magnitude was complicated and difficult to build with few companies willing to respond to the Request for Proposal (RFP). The initial Contract for the two-county radio system was done through RFP, via Contra Costa County, and Motorola was the only respondent to the RFP. The design and build of the system were reviewed by an independent engineering firm which supported the proposal for EBRCSA and the contract was awarded to Motorola Solutions Inc. based on the review of the response to the RFP.

The dispatch consoles which are used by the City of Berkeley are produced exclusively by Motorola and are the only consoles which can be used on the EBRCSA.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no known impacts.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This equipment is required to complete the emergency firehouse alerting system replacement project and is required for the system to properly function.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department, (510) 981-3483

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REJECT ALL BIDS AND NEGOTIATE WITH CONTRACTORS FOR THE BERKELEY
FIRE STATION LANDSCAPE PROJECT, SPECIFICATION NO. 24-11622-C

WHEREAS, the Department is in the middle of an emergency replacement of the alerting system in all of the city's firehouses with installation complete in five (5) of seven (7) facilities, and

WHEREAS, this system alerts responders over 17,000 times per year of the need to respond to a call for help - a critical piece of the city's 911 system, and

WHEREAS, the current system was failing and the vendor unexpectedly went out of business in 2023 leaving the city with no way to repair the failing system, and

WHEREAS, Council authorized a replacement of the system on June 27, 2023 through resolution No. 70,903-N.S., and

WHEREAS, staff were just informed that a critical piece of equipment (a dispatch console and accessories) must be purchased in order to complete the project and transition to the replacement firehouse alerting system.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager during recess to issue purchase orders with Motorola for an amount not to exceed \$175,000 through July 31, 2024 for the purchase of equipment necessary to complete the emergency firehouse alerting retrofit project.

