



AGENDA ITEM NO.

COUNCIL MEETING 01/13/09

APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

CITY MANAGER

January 13, 2009

FROM: JERRY P. DYER, Chief of Police
Police Department

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Special Operations Division, Homeland Security Bureau

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BEARINGPOINT, INC., FOR A REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$359,703

KEY RESULT AREA

Public Safety

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that Council authorize the Police Chief to enter into a contract, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office, with BearingPoint, Inc., in the amount of \$359,703, for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Police Department has worked with the Purchasing Division to conduct formal Statements of Qualifications and consultant interviews to secure interoperable communications assessment services, which resulted in a bid opening on October 8, 2008. The bid process closed on November 3, 2008, and nine consulting firms advanced to the interview process. Interviews took place on November 12, 2008, with panel members representative of Kern County, Fresno County, Madera County and the City of Fresno. Individual scores were given to each firm and the firm with the highest overall score was awarded the project. With the assistance of the City Attorney's Office and Risk Management, we are actively involved in contract negotiations and should have a final document soon.

The PSIC grant program is in its second year of operations and this contract will provide for Interoperable Communications Assessments for all first-responder agencies in the counties of Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern. The consultant will also provide the Central Planning Area, encompassing the above counties, a Regional Interoperable Communication Assessment Plan to ensure that all agencies are brought up to a specific level of tactical interoperability. The term of the contract is for six months, beginning January 6, 2009, and continuing through June 30, 2009.

The Council is being asked to authorize the Police Chief to enter into a contract, when finalized and approved as to form and content, with the recommended service provider for the Interoperable Communications Assessment project funded by the Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant. The cost of these services will be paid out of existing appropriations in the budget.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

The 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program balances the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and prudent Financial Management by increasing the efficiency of police services to the community, creating a safer environment, improving delivery of police services to the community through external grant funding, and providing necessary tools to communicate with other first-responder agencies throughout our community and its outlying counties. Creating a safer environment in the Fresno area enhances customer satisfaction. In addition, by providing these valuable resources, it allows our employees to work in an effective and efficient manner, which promotes employee satisfaction.

BACKGROUND

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the federal government established the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to manage the preparedness and prevention efforts of federal, state and local agencies. DHS, through the California Office of Homeland Security (OHS), provides grant funding to state and local agencies to support prevention, preparedness, and response efforts focused on large-scale natural disasters or acts of terrorism.

In 2004 the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) published their final report, outlining issues that significantly contributed to the Nation's vulnerability. One of the critical issues involved the ability for first-responder agencies using disparate radio platforms to communicate with each other (tactical interoperable communications). The Department of Homeland Security has made interoperable communications a priority, focusing a great deal of federal grant funding in this area.

In 2007 the U.S. Department of Commerce funded the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant, making nearly one billion dollars available to enhance tactical interoperable communications among first-responders nationwide. The Department of Homeland Security is the administering agency for this grant funding, and has made the funding available to all states and territories. The funding awarded to California is administered through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

Under the Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program, only California Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (CalSIEC) Planning Areas were eligible to apply for funding. The Central CalSIEC Planning Area encompasses Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. The City of Fresno (Fresno Police Department) is the representative agency for the Central CalSIEC Planning Area and will act as the PSIC grant administrator. This decision was made at the State level, and is a compliment to our successful administration of the 2004 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant, which funded a \$7 million enhancement to interoperable communications throughout Fresno County.

The PSIC grant amount awarded to the Central CalSIEC Planning Area totals \$5,431,433.30. These PSIC grant funds have been split into two distinct portions. The first portion, \$1,833,652, has been designated for projects within the City and County of Fresno to enhance interoperable communications projects originally funded through the 2004 UASI grant.

The second portion of PSIC grant funding, \$3,597,781.30, has been designated for the remaining six counties within the Planning Area (Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Kings, Tulare and Kern), and will enhance interoperable communications throughout the Central CalSIEC Planning Area. In developing interoperable communications solutions, the Central CalSIEC Planning Area must consider the needs of local units of government and their needs for tactical interoperable communications. The Central CalSIEC Planning Area must coordinate within the seven counties to utilize these funds in a manner that will benefit the Planning Area as a whole. A governing body for the Central Planning Area has been established and consists of members from government agencies in all seven counties, plus the Fresno UASI, with each county having a voting member and an alternate to facilitate the direction for regional interoperability involving the entire Planning Area. The Central CalSIEC Planning Area Work Group is co-chaired by Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer and Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. As a part of this second portion, \$359,703 has been set aside for an Interoperable Communications Assessment Plan for First Responders. BearingPoint, Inc., a communications consulting firm, has been selected to conduct an exhaustive analysis of the current communications technology available throughout the Planning Area over the term of the grant completing an Operational Area Assessment for each county and a Regional Interoperability Communications Assessment Plan for the entire Central Planning Area.

FISCAL

The funds have been appropriated and are sufficient to pay for the costs associated with this contract. Expenditures made related to the services of this consultant are 100% reimbursed by the grant.

JPD:CE:pgh
12/22/09