

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Phillip Sargent, Assistant Chief of Police

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item for January 20, 2011 – Police Radio System Amendment/Change Order

DATE: January 10, 2011

INTRODUCTION:

During the budget process, the City Council approved the purchase of a new radio system for the Police Department. The amount budgeted (bonded) for the system was \$150,000.00. At the August 5, 2010 City Council meeting Council approved the purchase of the new radio system from CEC.

The Police Department would like to amend the Purchase Order due to some recent improvements and design changes.

BACKGROUND:

During the spring of 2009 we were introduced to a system made by Motorola called MotoTurbo. The radio system works on either VHF or UHF frequencies. The system was quite impressive and was purchased by the Muscatine Fire Department. The Police Department, as part of the 2001/11 budget request asked the City to allow us to purchase a similar system and it was granted to the amount of \$150,000.00.

In August of 2010 the system was awarded to CEC for the amount of \$111,013.97. We initially received some frequencies from the FCC but the pairings were spaced too close together to be useful for this radio system. We are currently waiting on new pairings from the FCC.

Since the delay, Motorola has developed a new repeater for the radio system that will better handle the output of our radio system. The new repeater pair won't require an additional amplifier and should result in less maintenance down the road. The new repeaters will cost an additional \$1,644.42 for the pair.

In addition to the newer repeaters, we would like to purchase frequencies and a third repeater that would be dedicated to radio data transmission and would also provide a separate talk group for the two code enforcement officers. Since the FD purchased their MotoTurbo system they have discovered that the data transmitted by the radios would be best handled by a separate repeater. Our data was going to be sent on the same backbone system as the Fire Department's data was. We are asking for an additional \$8,837.55 for the additional repeater and FCC licensing for this repeater to bolster the entire radio system's capabilities.

Finally, the original purchase request did not include the cost of radio holders. The radio holders are needed to secure the radios to the officers and to limit damage. Because the radio system is so new, Motorola is the only company that is making the radio holders for this style of portable radios. The cost of the radio holders will be \$2587.50.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

We are asking City Council to approve the change order/purchase order amendment for the amount of \$13,069.47. The total cost to date for the radio system would be \$124,083.44. The budgeted amount of for this project is \$150,000.00.