



Agenda Date: 9/13/2005
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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Neal T. O'Haire, Emergency Services Manager, 253-4257
SUBJECT: Purchase of Microwave Modernization Equipment - Fixed Asset

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests approval of the following items related to the purchase of communications hardware to begin the modernization of the countywide microwave communications system:

1. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 9 in the amount of \$192,973 increasing appropriations in the Communications budget with offsetting revenue from Emergency Services budget unit to establish a fixed asset in the amount of \$190,482 for the purchase of communications hardware for the microwave communications system modernization project, and \$2,491 for purchase of related small required parts for the project (4/5 vote required); and
2. A waiver of competitive bidding requirements and sole source award for the purchase of the communications hardware from Harris Microwave Communications Division in Redwood Shores, California, for \$190,482 pursuant to County Ordinance Code 2.36.090.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Terrorism Working Group Approval Authority has approved as a priority project the replacement and upgrade of the 20+ year old County microwave system. The committee has allocated \$150,000 from the FY 04 State Homeland Security Grant Program and \$42,973 from the FY 04 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant to begin this process. The equipment purchased from these grants and subsequent grants in FY 05 and FY 06 will completely rebuild and update the County microwave system. This system is the backbone of all long distance radio communications and, when it is completed, will provide a robust, technologically current, compatible, and "push to talk" capability for radio communications anywhere within Napa County. The interoperability of the proposed system has been vetted by the State and Federal Departments of Homeland Security as compatible and integratable with future proposed state and federal communications systems as required by the Presidential Homeland Security Declaration #5.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Emergency Services
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This equipment will provide reliable communications throughout the County for all jurisdictions and disciplines which is imperative in both emergency and non-emergency situations.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	The system will be completed using the FY05 and FY06 Homeland Security Program grant funds. Upon completion of the system the County will be responsible for maintaining the communications equipment. Due to the fact that the new equipment is state of the art and all solid state the actual maintenance costs should decrease when compared to the current system. The new system will be substantially more reliable, affordable, maintainable and dependable.
Consequences if not approved:	If this request is not approved the County would have to voluntarily reduce the grant award by \$192,973 and negotiate with the State Department of Homeland security to modify the grant program and implementation plans.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Napa County applied for and was awarded a total of \$612,839 in grant funds under the FY04 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Napa Operational Area Terrorism Working Group, in accordance with Office of Homeland Security directives, has constructed and approved the planned grant expenditures through their Approval Authority Body consisting of the County Health Officer, County Fire Chief, Municipal Fire Chief, County Sheriff and a Chief of Police. Grant funds are used to benefit all Napa Operational Area jurisdictions and disciplines.

The 2004 Homeland Security grant funds are appropriated in the Emergency Services budget unit with Napa County Emergency Services being the central ordering point for items purchased with grant funds. In order for this fixed asset to be established in the Communications budget instead of the Emergency Services budget, it is necessary to transfer funds in the amount of \$190,482 from Emergency Services to the Communications budget unit. These grant funds for the County microwave system upgrade do not affect the County general fund. The additional \$2,491 is being transferred to the Communications budget for purchase of additional related small

parts required for this project.

Napa County's communications microwave system went into service in 1988. The system uses a Motorola Starpoint 6000. Motorola has discontinued this product and no longer provides parts or maintenance. The County system is no longer compatible with current generations of the State microwave system and no longer meets the requirement for interoperability under standards adopted by the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Additionally, after consulting with both the state telecommunications staff from General Services Administration and the State Department of Homeland Security, the decision was made to sole source the purchase using the same brand and supplier of equipment that is building the state microwave backbone. This simplified our interoperability planning and performance with the State Microwave system. In addition, the first phase of the microwave upgrade used Harris as well so this will purchase will build on previously purchased equipment providing continuity and compatibility.

The primary components of the County's microwave for first responders are:

1. Remote station control on the Napa County Fire radio channel;
2. Napa County telephone circuits to California Department of Forestry (CDF)/Napa County Fire St. Helena facility;
3. Hotline from CDF/Napa County Fire Emergency Command Center (ECC) to Napa [City] Dispatch (part of the emergency response system); and
4. Receiver Voter system for the Police Primary radio channel used by the Napa City Police and the County Sheriff's departments.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson