

**City Council
Agenda Memo**



**City Council
Meeting Date: 03/13/14**

TO: Larry D. Gilley, City Manager
FROM: Ronnie C. Kidd, Managing Director for Administration
SUBJECT: Oral Resolution approving Consultant Services Agreement with RCC Consultants, Inc. for Public Safety Communications Systems Needs Analysis

GENERAL INFORMATION

In May of 2002, the City of Abilene launched a replacement project for its Public Safety Communications Systems, selecting RCC Consultants, Inc. to assist in the needs assessment, procurement, testing and implementation processes. RCC is a recognized leader in public safety communications consultancy and served the City well to ensure we implemented an excellent and effective solution. The project involved a total system replacement, resulting in an EDACS trunked radio system, an Intergraph Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System, and Records Management System (RMS) and a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) System.

The City once again has a need to evaluate its Public Safety Communications Systems due to the ongoing evolution of technology and changes in regulatory requirements for public safety communications. For instance, the current Intergraph CAD system cannot be supported much longer without a major software upgrade. Further, federal and state regulatory agencies continue to evolve system interoperability standards for public safety entities. As a result, the current EDACS radios are at or very near end of support and end of life cycles.

The management team proposes to contract with RCC again to assist in the evaluation of our current Public Safety Communications Systems and to advise the City on the current regulatory and operational universes, as well as what hardware and software upgrades and/or additional needs the City should consider or pursue. The evaluation, or needs assessment, will cover the following factors: (1) Radio communications requirements; (2) LAN/WAN Equipment conditions & maintenance issues; (3) CAD/RMS/MDC requirements; (4) CAD/RMS Data Conversion considerations; (5) Technology obsolescence; (6) Radio interoperability requirements; and (7) EDACS equipment condition & maintenance issues.

Key public safety communications staff members will be interviewed on-site by RCC. Additionally, RCC will review and evaluate the current operational capabilities of our Public Safety Communications Systems. RCC will compare information gathered through the evaluation to what is currently being done in other agencies and offer the City its recommendations and as well as options for accomplishing the recommendations. RCC's report will include identification and analysis of the following:

- Issues with the current EDACS system and CAD/RMS/Mobile data applications capabilities and performance;
- Specific functions and procedures that should be supported in upgraded or new systems;
- Constraints and opportunities for information sharing;
- Pros and cons of systems upgrading vs. systems replacement (the radio system and the CAD/RMS/Mobile Data applications will be addressed separately);
- Existing limitations vs. new technology opportunities; and
- Any unique operational requirements that exist that would affect a new solution.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT: The cost for the evaluation is not to exceed \$80,000, which will be paid out of the Technology Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the consultant services agreement.

Prepared by: _____ Signature Name: <u>Ronnie C. Kidd</u> Title: <u>Managing Director for Administration</u>	Item No. <u>7.6</u>	Disposition by City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Ord/Res# _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ City Secretary
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