

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Safety and Justice
INITIATED BY



David Sleeter
DRAFTED BY

Public Safety and Justice
SUBMITTED BY

October 24, 2011
DATE DRAFTED

**PURCHASE OF ANALOG/DIGITAL VOICE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County 911 Communications Center is responsible for the operation of the public
- 2 safety voice radio communications infrastructure within Rock County; and,
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, continuous interoperable radio communications between the first responders of Rock
- 5 County and the 911 Communications Center are essential to providing the most efficient public safety
- 6 services to the citizens of Rock County; and,
- 7
- 8 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that most analog radio
- 9 frequencies be "narrow-banded" by January 1, 2013; and,
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, Rock County public safety currently communicates on analog voice radio frequencies; and,
- 12
- 13 **WHEREAS**, a digital mode public safety voice communications system better positions public safety
- 14 voice communications users for future radio technology upgrades, meets the FCC "narrow-banding"
- 15 mandate, and improves interoperability opportunities; and,
- 16
- 17 **WHEREAS**, converting the existing Rock County voice radio system to a digital mode will also improve
- 18 radio coverage without adding any additional tower site locations; and,
- 19
- 20 **WHEREAS**, the cost of converting the Rock County public safety analog voice radio system to operate
- 21 in a digital mode has been included in the 2011 budget; and,
- 22
- 23 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Sheriff's Office and certain other County departments utilizing voice
- 24 radio communications equipment will need to re-program their existing mobile and portable radios for
- 25 narrow-band operations or purchase analog/digital capable radio equipment; and,
- 26
- 27 **WHEREAS**, the funding necessary to re-program or replace the existing Sheriff's Office and other
- 28 County department's mobile and portable radios was included in the 2011 budget; and,
- 29
- 30 **WHEREAS**, the necessary Rock County mobile and portable radio equipment can be purchased off of
- 31 the WSCA contract (Contract #02702) at a cost of \$335,263 through General Communications, Inc., of
- 32 Madison, Wisconsin.
- 33
- 34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 35 this 17th day of November, 2011 that a contract in the amount of \$335,263 be awarded to
- 36 General Communications, Inc., of Madison, Wisconsin for the purchase of the necessary mobile and
- 37 portable radio equipment of the Rock County Sheriff's Office and certain other County departments to
- 38 efficiently communicate on the analog/digital Rock County public safety voice radio infrastructure.

11-110-517

PURCHASE OF ANALOG/DIGITAL VOICE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

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Respectfully submitted,

Public Safety and Justice Committee

Ivan Collins
Ivan Collins, Chair

Larry Wiedenfeld
Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice Chair

Mary Beaver
Mary Beaver

Hank Brill
Hank Brill

Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson

Purchasing Procedural Endorsement

Reviewed and approved on a vote of
50.

Mary Mawhinney
Mary Mawhinney, Chair

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. In addition, sec. 59.52(29), Wis. Stats. requires the project to be let to the lowest responsible bidder.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

FISCAL NOTE:

This purchase is for the 911 Communication Center's Digital Radio Project A/C '23-2417-0000-67200, which has a current unencumbered, unexpended balance of \$357,715. This capital project is funded by unused sales tax proceeds from the Jail/HCC Capital Project, A/C 18-1849-0000-67200.

Jeffrey A. Smith
Jeffrey A. Smith
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Craig Knutson
Craig Knutson
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rock County Communications Center is directly responsible for the operation and maintenance of the public safety radio communications infrastructure throughout Rock County. Continuous interoperable voice radio communications between public safety agencies of Rock County and the 911 Communications Center are essential to providing the most efficient public safety services to the citizens of Rock County.

In 2008, Rock County and the cities of Janesville and Beloit contracted for a County-wide Interoperable Communications Study for the purposes of future public safety communications planning. To improve countywide public safety interoperability, and also meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate for "narrow-banding", the Study recommended that Rock County public safety voice communications move to a hybrid VHF-UHF digital trunked voice radio system. Rock County then contracted with a grant-writing vendor in an attempt to secure grant funding for the recommended digital trunked voice radio system. As of this date, no grant sources have been located for digital trunked infrastructure.

As mentioned above, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has announced that certain portions of radio frequency spectrum would be required to be "narrow-band" by January 1, 2013. This unfunded mandate applied to all public safety voice radio frequencies used within Rock County. "Narrow-banding" is the reduction of radio spectrum that each applicable radio frequency holds a license for. This mandate will result in a loss of radio coverage area for Rock County public safety (especially for portable radio equipment). Additionally, the FCC is expected to announce a further "narrow-banding" mandate in the near future. Further "narrow-banding" of the existing analog public safety radio frequencies would require a very large increase in the amount of voice radio infrastructure equipment and tower sites, thus making the system very expensive to operate.

Rock County public safety officials thoroughly researched the issue of future public safety voice radio communications. Their recommendation is for Rock County public safety to convert the existing analog voice radio communications system to a digital mode by January 1, 2013. This conversion will increase radio coverage within the County without requiring any additional tower site locations. The conversion will ultimately position Rock County public safety voice radio communications to meet near future expectations.

The County will fund the conversion of the existing public safety voice radio infrastructure, 911 Communications Center radio equipment, and other County departments utilizing voice radio equipment. Each public safety agency will be responsible for their respective analog to digital conversion costs of their field

radio equipment. Although federal funding is not available for “narrow-banding” radio infrastructure reimbursements, an Assistance to Firefighters grant application is pending in an effort to assist Rock County fire/EMS agencies with the cost of their radio field equipment.

A significant amount of the existing public safety radio infrastructure can be modified to operate in digital mode with the purchase of specialized Internet Protocol equipment offered by the vendor RAYTHEON. Other non-specialized equipment can be purchased off of the State of Wisconsin WSCSA contract. The RAYTHEON dealer in our area is General Communications, Inc., of Madison, WI. General Communications has been the Rock County public safety infrastructure maintenance vendor for the last seventeen years.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office and certain other County departments utilizing voice radio communications equipment will need to re-program their existing mobile and portable radios for narrow-band operations or purchase analog/digital capable radio equipment. The funding necessary to re-program or replace the existing Sheriff's Office and other County department's mobile and portable radios was included in the 2011 budget and totals \$335,263.