



WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM _____
Finance DN
DA _____
Risk Mgt. DE
HR n/a
Other n/a

STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: July 14, 2015

DATE: 6/22/2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Gary Beekman, IT Manager, Regional Services,
Washoe County Technology Services Department,
775-328-3619, gbeekman@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: The 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve and execute a Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming the intent of the State of Nevada, Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation, Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) and NV Energy, partners in the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS), recognize the need for a shared statewide communications network to be used for daily operations, interagency communication, interoperability and emergency communications. The NSRS has well-established capabilities and shared system use agreements in place. Today's public safety environment has highlighted the need for system owners to work together to establish interoperable communications, recognizing the cost benefit to all parties.

The Department of Transportation, WCRCS and NV Energy have worked together to establish the NSRS, a state-wide radio system, with infrastructure owned and maintained by each entity. The NSRS is accessible on communication equipment used by key public service officials, public safety officials and private safety services statewide.

The vendor for the current NSRS infrastructure and subscriber equipment has announced most equipment in use on the NSRS has reached its "product end-of-life." Wherein the vendor has indicated that it has already stopped, or intends to stop, marketing,

AGENDA ITEM # 5E

manufacturing, selling, and supporting the announced products, it will no longer guarantee that it will provide replacement parts or fix software issues for those products and vendor support will be severely limited. This poses a significant concern, risk and potential liability for the NSRS system owners and users.

Based on that, this Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms that it is the intent of the State of Nevada, WCRCS and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system. The partnership formed under the NSRS has proven to be of significant value to each party and the shared ownership has allowed each party to benefit of a seamless statewide system with an overall reduction in cost and increase in reliability.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

October, 1999 Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District entered into an agreement to establish the Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS).

July 1, 2002 an Amendment to the Washoe County Regional 800 MHZ Communications System October 1999 Interlocal agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners to include updates to sponsoring a private provider such as the application process, review and recommendation, final action and governing law and venue.

April 22, 2014 approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Washoe County to share the cost of the Hardware Refresh of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) Voice Interoperability Data Access (VIDA) communications system switches, in an amount not to exceed [\$500,000].

October 14, 2014 an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to provide for the continued development and operation of the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS).

June 23, 2015 approved the sole source purchase of a P25 phase 2 simulcast radio system solution from Harris Corporation to address the radio system coverage problems in the Red Rock/Rancho Haven area as well as continue the transition to a new digital radio system in an amount not to exceed [\$850,000].

BACKGROUND

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vendor has indicated that it has already stopped, or intends to stop, marketing, manufacturing, selling, and supporting the announced products, it will no longer guarantee that it will provide replacement parts or fix software issues for those products and vendor support will be severely limited. This poses a significant concern, risk and potential liability for the NSRS system owners and users.

Based on that, this Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms that it is the intent of the State of Nevada, WCRCS and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system. The partnership formed under the NSRS has proven to be of significant value to each party and the shared ownership has allowed each party to benefit of a seamless statewide system with an overall reduction in cost and increase in reliability.

This MOU is an instance of the regional cooperation between Washoe County, Nevada Energy and the State of Nevada.

FISCAL IMPACT

Future ongoing operating, maintenance, repair, and capital outlay costs for the radio frequency and microwave backbone are shared equitably by the participating and sponsored agencies and are based on the proportionate number of radios in use by each the participating agency as a percentage of the total number of radios in use by all agencies participating in the WCRCS. A Regional Communication System Fund was established in October 2006 to provide improved managerial accounting of WCRCS resources and disbursements with the special revenue fund: C210010 RCS Operations; C210200 RCS Expansion and C210300 RCS Infrastructure.

No Washoe County General Fund budget will be used to support these costs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners move to approve and execute a Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming the intent of the State of Nevada, Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to approve and execute a Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming the intent of the State of Nevada, Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system.



Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding

April 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation, Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRC) and NV Energy, partners in the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS), recognize the need for a shared statewide communications network to be used for daily operations, interagency communication, interoperability and emergency communications. The NSRS has well-established capabilities and shared system use agreements in place. Today's public safety environment has highlighted the need for system owners to work together to establish interoperable communications, recognizing the cost benefit to all parties.

The Department of Transportation, WCRC and NV Energy have worked together to establish the NSRS, a state-wide radio system, with infrastructure owned and maintained by each entity. The NSRS is accessible on communication equipment used by key public service officials, public safety officials and private safety services statewide.

PURPOSE

The vendor for the current NSRS infrastructure and subscriber equipment has announced most equipment in use on the NSRS has reached its "product end-of-life." Wherein the vendor has indicated that it has already stopped, or intends to stop, marketing, manufacturing, selling, and supporting the announced products, it will no longer guarantee that it will provide replacement parts or fix software issues for those products and vendor support will be severely limited. This poses a significant concern, risk and potential liability for the NSRS system owners and users.

Based on that, this Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms that it is the intent of the State of Nevada, WCRC and NV Energy and to move forward as one cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system. The partnership formed under the NSRS has proven to be of significant value to each party and the shared ownership has allowed each party to benefit of a seamless statewide system with an overall reduction in cost and increase in reliability.

SCOPE

The NSRS is faced with the immediate need to replace the entire Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system with a system of current and nationally recognized technology. To preserve the current arrangement of shared infrastructure to benefit all within the State of Nevada, it is the desire of the State, WCRC and NV Energy to continue to operate this public safety communications system with a common manufacturer to retain statewide interoperability.

DEFINITIONS

The NSRS, whether operating on the State of Nevada systems, WCRCS systems or NV Energy systems, provides for seamless communications statewide through the shared infrastructure components. The System is composed of multiple Integrated Multisite Controllers linked together to become one switched communications network. The system provides communications services to all systems.

Timing

Project25 Phase II communications system will be a five year deployment starting in 2017, with NV Energy performing preliminary work in 2016.

Maintenance

Each member of the NSRS is responsible to continuously monitor their system performance and to maintain their sites in an operational condition. Because the safety of all users is paramount to all who use or rely on the system, all corrective measures must be made in a timely manner. Notifications will be sent to all responsible parties when diminished performance occurs and when corrections are made to restore full communications.

Oversight

Each member of the NSRS shall work as a team to maintain full communications between all other parties. The participation in the Technical Advisory Committee, a group made of the technicians who are responsible for the system maintenance should be encouraged to provide an environment for shared discussion.

Conclusion

Therefore, in consideration of this, the undersigned do, by their signatures, indicate their intent to remain as a shared communications system and work together to obtain and implement a common manufacturer platform Project 25 Phase II statewide radio system. **This MOU is not legally binding and none of the undersigned shall be bound to any terms, conditions or agreements, whatsoever, contained herein.**

State of Nevada, Department of Transportation

Date

NV Energy

Date

Washoe County Commissions

Date