

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST



Date: May 18, 2016

Weekly Agenda Date: May 24, 2016

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Gary Brown, Director of Emergency Services

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM: Starcomm-Authorization to Reprioritize the Starcomm CIP Project Funding

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Give Direction

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Starcomm Executive Board and Starcomm Partners are requesting the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors make a motion to approve and authorize to reprioritize the "Starcomm-Upgrade of Tower Sites & Radio Infrastructure" Capital Improvement Project funding to enter into a long-term partnership with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) exchanging needed upgrades to our Starcomm radio system at a lower cost than the original CIP project and utilize the funding to double Starcomm's channel capacity from five to ten.

BACKGROUND: The Starcomm partners had previously been granted approval of the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) for the initial intent to upgrade the Starcomm tower sites and radio infrastructure for the amount of \$700,000.00, paid by the Starcomm Partners over the course of two fiscal years; based on population. Woodbury County's portion as one of the Starcomm Partners would be \$160,999.92 total; over both budget years.

The Starcomm radio system was originally designed as a 700 end user capacity system, today there is just over 1,000 end users utilizing Starcomm. The Starcomm radio system has been extremely busy, between 1/1/2016 and 4/10/2016 there were 1M push to talk radio request for services; resulting in a denial for service 3% of the time due to capacity limitations. The accepted national standard is less than 1% for denial of service.

The amount of \$700,000 would double the current capacity of the Starcomm radio system.

The opportunity arose to enter into a long-term partnership between the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) and Starcomm where the state proposed they would be able to provide the needed upgrades to radio system in exchange for tower space on the Starcomm towers. The funding would be utilized to increase the channel capacity from 5 to 10 channels which is double the amount of the current system for the cost of \$598,000.00. This is actually, \$102,000.00 less than the original "Starcomm-Upgrade of Tower Sites & Radio Infrastructure" CIP Project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This is an opportunity for the Starcomm radio system to double the channels of needed capacity, for \$598,000.00 and partner with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) for the needed upgrades in exchange for space on the Starcomm towers. This is \$102,000.00 less than the original "Starcomm-Upgrade of Tower Sites/Radio Infrastructure" CIP Project. This is a move that will be positive for all parties involved the Starcomm Partners will have the upgrades that are necessary to provide the system capacity to support the end users. The ISICSB have the equipment and technology available and Starcomm has the tower locations and tower space available that would be beneficial for the ISICSB.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION: The recommendation from the Starcomm Executive Committee and Partners to the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors is to make a motion to approve and authorize the reprioritizing of the "Starcomm-Upgrade of Tower Sites/Radio Infrastructure" Capital Improvements Project budget of \$700,000.00 to the partnership with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) and Starcomm where the state will provide the needed upgrades for Starcomm radio system and Starcomm will purchase 5 additional channels to increase channel capacity from 5 to 10 channels.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION: Motion to approve and authorize the reprioritizing of the "Starcomm-Upgrade of Tower Sites/Radio Infrastructure" Capital Improvements Project budget of \$700,000.00 to the partnership with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) and Starcomm to which the state will provide the needed upgrades in exchange for space on the Starcomm towers and Starcomm will purchase and increase channel capacity from 5 to 10 channels, for the total cost of \$598,000.00; for a projected cost savings of \$102,000.00.

Approved by Board of Supervisors April 5, 2016.