



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JANUARY 12, 2021**

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TWO GARMIN GTN-750HXi NAVIGATION SYSTEM AND TWO BECKER DIGITAL AUDIO SYSTEM INCLUDING WIRING AND MIXER PANELS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT HELICOPTERS FROM HANGAR ONE AVIONICS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$211,331.58 WITH AN ADDITIONAL CHANGE ORDER AUTHORITY OF 10% OR \$21,133.15 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PURCHASING RESOLUTION NO. 23256, SECTIONS 702(d) AND 602 (d)

ISSUES:

Authorize the purchase and installation of two Garmin GTN-750HXi Navigation System and two Becker Digital Audio System including wiring and mixer panels for the two Police Department helicopters from Hanger One Avionics, INC. in the amount of \$211,331.58 plus an additional change order authority of 10% or \$21,133.15 for a total amount not to exceed \$232,464.73 in accordance with Purchasing Resolution No. 23256, Sections 702(d) and 602(d).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the purchase and installation of two Garmin GTN-750HXi Navigation System and two Becker Digital Audio System including wiring and mixer panels for the two Police Department helicopters from Hanger One Avionics, INC. in the amount of \$211,331.58; and
2. Authorize an additional change order authority of 10% or \$21,133.15, for a total amount not to exceed \$232,464.73.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Police Department (RPD) Aviation Unit provides aerial support for ground operations in observing, preventing and interdicting criminal activity. The fleet currently consists of two McDonnell Douglas helicopters.

On July 14, 2015, the City Council approved the proposal to migrate the public radio system to the Riverside County Public Safety Enterprise Communication System (PSEC). The PSEC system administered by Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT) is an advanced, digital,

encrypted radio system with a wide variety of available features. As part of the migration into a digital radio system, the helicopters analog radios needed to be replaced in order to communicate on the digital PSEC system.

On September 6, 2016, the City Council awarded Bid No. 7367 for an installation Agreement for Helicopter Radio Systems to remove and install new helicopter radio systems for the Police Aviation Unit to Rotocraft Support, Inc., of Van Nuys, California, in the amount of \$278,533.28. The radios are specifically for communication with PSEC.

DISCUSSION:

Each of the Police Helicopters is also equipped with a separate radio system specifically for communication with the surrounding flight towers for the primary purpose of accident avoidance with other aircraft. One system is completely non-functional in helicopter 951RP, making it inoperable due to safety concerns, and is intermittently non-functioning in the other only available helicopter, 911RP.

The helicopters are used in the pursuit of public safety and are essential to the protection of the public's health, welfare, and safety. Additionally, continuing to operate the helicopters with radio systems that do not continuously and properly connect with surrounding flight towers is not advised and could potentially put the operators and the public in dangerous situations.

The radio systems are analog systems and are continuously in need of repair and maintenance in order to remain connected to the digital systems used in the surrounding flight towers. The radio systems use outdated technology and it would be financially prudent to replace the existing analogue radio system with a digital system in both helicopters. Changing over to all digital components will ensure proper communications with surrounding flight towers and ensure the pilot's safety, as well as the safety, health and welfare of the public.

Therefore, the Police Department is recommending the purchase of two Garmin GTN-750HXi Navigation Systems and two Becker Digital Audio Systems including all digital wiring and mixer panels for the two Police Department Helicopters in accordance with Purchasing Resolution 23256, Section 602(d) which states that competitive procurements through the formal or informal procurement process shall not be required when the procurement consists of replacement parts for the City's vehicles and aviation units. Additionally, Section 702(d) of the Purchasing Resolution states that competitive procurement through the informal and formal procurement process shall not be required when the procurement consists of services needed for the replacement parts for the City's vehicles, aviation units, and other City equipment.

The helicopters cannot fly without proper radio systems to communicate with the surrounding flight towers. Additionally, the installation work requires specific technical knowledge and experience due to the highly specialized and technical nature of the equipment and systems installed on the Police Departments helicopters. Hanger One, Avionic, Inc. is the only local source with the required technical knowledge and experience required and is able to perform the work in the timeliest manner. When compared with the cost of the radio systems purchased in 2016 to connect with the PSEC system administered by RCIT, the cost for the proposed Garmin and Becker equipment and installation appears to be reasonable.

If the helicopters are replaced, the Police Department will retain possession of the updated digital radio systems for the Department's needs.

The Purchasing Manager concurs that the recommended action is in compliance with Purchasing Resolution No. 23256, Sections 602(d) and 702(d).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of the action is a not to exceed amount of \$232,464.73. Funding in the amount of \$118,232.37 is available in account 9341300-440210 – COPS Grant and \$114,232.36 is available in account 3120000-424210 – Aviation Non Stock Items.

Prepared by: Larry V. Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Quotes