

Thursday, August 1, 2002

Honorable Mayor and Members of  
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular meeting of  
August 13, 2002

**PURCHASE OF MOTOROLA UHF RADIO EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Authorize the purchase and installation of Motorola brand UHF mobile and portable radio hardware and software for the fire department from South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority at a cost of \$30,727.64.
2. Authorize the re-appropriation of \$30,728 from the 2001/2002 budget to the 2002/2003 budget to accomplish this purchase.

BACKGROUND

The current fire department radio hardware, mobile (permanently mounted in fire apparatus) and portable (handheld by personnel), is limited to operating only on the VHF band. This situation is not adequate and presents a potential firefighter safety issue. Any emergency that requires mutual aid, either provided by the Hermosa Beach Fire Department, or received from another South Bay agency to Hermosa Beach, poses a serious communication issue.

Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Torrance, and Los Angeles County Fire Departments all utilize UHF band for radio communications. Redondo Beach Fire Department utilizes the 800 band for communications. Current mutual aid emergency radio operations by the fire department rely on the sole use of (3) UHF band portables to provide communication capability with those agencies that utilize UHF band.

The (3) UHF portables currently in use by the fire department are owned, and on loan, from the Manhattan Beach Fire Department. Recently the fire department has received a request to return the (3) loaned UHF portables back to Manhattan Beach Fire Department. This would leave the fire department without UHF band communication capabilities.

Current mutual aid emergency radio operations within Redondo Beach are dependent upon the on scene arrival issuance of a Redondo Beach Fire Department 800 band portable radio to Hermosa Beach Fire personnel for radio communications. This situation has proven to be awkward and unreliable.

The current status of fire department radio communication hardware presents a potentially serious safety issue for firefighters. The fire department is actively working with South Bay and Southern California fire agencies in addressing the communication issue of fire service radio inter-operability. Regardless of the specific logistics, the fire department assessment of general fire service direction indicates that the UHF band will be the chosen common frequency band for fire agencies. The fire department anticipates coordinating the conversion from VHF band to UHF band for radio communication sometime during 2003.

The City budgeted monies for the fiscal year 2001/2002 in the amount of \$15,660.00 for the purchase of fire department radio equipment, \$15,466 for the purchase of replacement safety equipment, and \$8,700 for the purchase of safety gear turn-outs. During the fiscal year 2001/2002 the fire department did not purchase the budgeted radio equipment nor encumber all monies identified for replacement safety equipment and safety gear turn-outs. \$30,728 is available from the remaining funds.

The fire department has recently adopted specific emergency standard operating procedures that require individual firefighters to possess a means of radio communication. In addition, the immediate need to provide 800 band communications has become a priority. These factors and the likelihood of permanent conversion to the UHF band makes it necessary to increase original budgeted amount to reflect additional radio hardware.

The fire department identified a minimum specific radio communication hardware need and obtained bid proposals from two of the vendors. Advanced Electronics declined to bid. Motorola and South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority responded with bid proposals. The lowest bid quotation for identified radio hardware equipment and installation was received from South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority for \$30,727.64.

FISCAL IMPACT

The funds required for the purchase of this radio hardware, software, and installation must be re-appropriated to the current year 2002/2003. The total cost is \$30,727.64.

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

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RUSSELL TINGLEY,  
FIRE CHIEF

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STEPHEN BURRELL,  
CITY MANAGER

Fiscal Impact:

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VIKI COPELAND,  
FINANCE DIRECTOR