



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

4A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: October 14, 2014

Title of Item: ARMER Radio System

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

Submitted by: Sheriff Scott Turner	Department: Sheriff's Office
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Presenter (Name and Title): Sheriff Scott Turner	Estimated Time Needed: 20 minutes
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Summary of Issue:

See attached memo.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted? Yes No **Please Explain:**

After taking feed-back from the stakeholders in this new radio system we set out to configure a system that was best for Aitkin County. We used duplexer repeaters on the VHF paging system to allow our smaller entities like first responder groups to continue to operate with a single radio (as opposed to having to carry both VHF and ARMER radios). This also provided a redundant path of communication to the dispatch center. We have a north and south VHF interoperability channels to further compliment this – using equipment from the old system. This strategy –originating with us in Aitkin County - was being presented at a state-wide interoperability conference as a radio solution.

We successfully lobbied to remove the requirement that Aitkin County place additional ARMER repeaters at each of the six state-owned tower sites – arguing that the loading due to Aitkin County radios would not be significant. This greatly reduced the cost.

The local enhancement site that was needed and done in the Aitkin area was done using an existing tower with usage being provided without cost for tower rent – greatly reducing the cost of the project.

We added a bi-directional amplifier to the McGregor School as coverage in this critical facility was basically non-existent. This added to the cost of the project as did other things needed to facilitate the placement of equipment in the Aitkin County Jail – such as the fire suppression system needed in the radio equipment room.

Nonetheless, when all things were added up – minus grant funds that were secured for specific parts of the project, the cost in Aitkin County levy dollars was **\$2,147,279.32**

A savings of \$1,152,720.70

It was another example of some great teamwork that was exhibited by Aitkin County staff and the various emergency response entities that serve the citizens of Aitkin County. Thanks to the Aitkin County Board for the great trust and oversight as this project was underway. While we still work out some of the operational issues within this system, we can finally put an end stamp on this project.

I will be presenting a power point at the October 14, 2014 Aitkin County Board Meeting to give the board a sense of scope of this project.