

MARIN EMERGENCY RADIO AUTHORITY

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DATE: June 15, 2017
TO: MERA Finance and Next Gen Project Oversight Committees
FROM: Dave Jeffries, Deputy Executive Officer for the Next Gen Project
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM I: Proposed Next Gen System Radio Packages

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and recommend approval by the Governing Board.

Background:

MERA has committed to providing a 1 for 1 replacement of all member agency radios that were in inventory on the date of the Measure A Parcel Tax election on November 4, 2014. From that simple commitment comes the need to provide details on exactly what that means for both MERA and agency planning purposes.

The attachment is a draft proposal to define the 1 for 1 replacement commitment. The proposal also attempts to simplify the breadth of equipment that existed in Gen I. As an example, for portable radios, I am recommending that all portable radios be replaced with a Model II portable, which has been the predominate model in our current fleet and is the model we used for budgetary purposes in the Motorola contract, reducing the number of radio models from three to one. For mobile radios, we essentially reduce the different models from five to two, with additional variations for motorcycles and dual head radios.

This process has included a recommendation that required balancing one objective of MERA (cost containment), with a second objective (newest life cycle radios). Again, using the portable radios as an example, Motorola provided per radio costs of \$5,588.98 per unit for the APX8000 radio, which is their high end and dual band radio. I recommend the APX6000 radio that is priced at \$3,312.96 or \$2,275.99 less per unit. At the same time, I recommended against using the APX4000 (\$2,521.22) as a Model I radio as there were few in the inventory and use different batteries affecting uniformity across the fleet.

The desktop radio replacement is still being defined, but essentially agencies that currently have a desktop console will receive a new one and if they currently have remotes for those radios, they will be replaced as well.

There are additional details, such as the number of batteries, belt clips and belt cases, shoulder mics, ruggedization, encryption, SVA and vehicle chargers and breathing apparatus interfaces for portable radios, as well as motorcycle kits, dual headed radios, siren and PA interfaces, encryption, remote mounts (default), headset interfaces, undercover antennas and 10 watt speakers that are addressed as well in the recommendations. Single and 6 radio chargers are also included in these recommendations.

Items not included in these recommendations would be a local agency issue. This would include the aftermarket ear pieces that some users have, the headsets that connect to the interfaces, etc.

In addition, I include one upgrade option for the portables and mobiles, that is a move from the recommended portable and mobile to the high end dual band radios. For agencies interested in those radios, I am proposing that MERA cover the cost of the recommended radios and that the requesting agency provide funding for the increased cost to the dual band radio.

These recommendations, taken in conjunction with the radio inventory currently underway, will likely require a change order as we prepare a final order for Motorola for radios. The bulk of the costs are already budgeted (the radios themselves), but we will need to detail the additional items such as interfaces for headsets and breathing apparatus, 10 watt speakers, etc. We do have a commitment from Motorola to assume the default installation for mobiles will be a remote mount, which is the more expensive of the two options.

Attachment:

MERA: Next Gen Radio Packages (Draft) dated 06/06/2017