

Staff Comments

Public Safety Committee

March 10, 2010

Action Item: Request approval to accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$130,599 for the replacement of portable radios.

Policy Issue: Whether to accept a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Background: The Board of County Commissioners authorized a capital project beginning in 2007 to replace several aging radio systems in use by most local public safety and County agencies with a digital 700 MHz radio system that would provide for radio interoperability between local government agencies within Johnson County and with neighboring jurisdictions in the Kansas City region. The 700 MHz radio system will be based upon an open standards architecture that will allow for competitive procurement of radio equipment for use by county and municipal agencies. The Fire Department will have to purchase 112 new radios and two repeaters to work with the 700 MHz radio system.

The Fire Department applied for and successfully received a FEMA Grant to cover a portion of the radio replacement, the portable radio portion consisting of 76 portable radios, and auxiliary equipment including: batteries, speaker mics, carrying cases and chargers.

It should be noted this grant does not include the portion of the CIP for mobile radios and necessary repeaters.

Budgetary Impact: If the City accepts this grant, the grant will reduce the CIP by \$130,599, to \$319,401.

Attachments: Award notification FEMA.