

**Story County 911 Service Board
Public Hearing
March 12, 2019**

The 911 Service Board met on 3/12/2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center for a Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget.

Story County- Paul Fitzgerald

ISU- Michael Newton; Rob Bowers, alternate

Ames- Chuck Cychosz; Doug Houghton, alternate

Cambridge- David Thom

Collins- Jay Christie

Colo- Dennis Clatt

Gilbert/Franklin- Tom Kepley, alternate

Huxley- Not present

Maxwell- Not present

McCallsburg- Chris Erickson; Brandon Hendrick, alternate

Guests: Chad Fleenor, Slater EMS; Tom Hackett, Ames Fire

Nevada- Ric Martinez

Roland- Not present

Slater- Not present

Story City- Matt Sporleder

Westory- Brandt Murry

Zearing- Not present

Story County EMA- Keith Morgan

Secretary- Amanda Roush

Sheriff Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 5:30pm and reviewed the procedures to be followed. Board members introduced themselves.

Roush advised that the Notice of Public Hearing and Proposed Budget had been published. There are no adjustments to the budget that was presented and accepted at the February 13th meeting.

Fitzgerald opened the hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition or in favor of the proposed budget. None

Fitzgerald asked Roush if we received any written comments on the proposed budget. Roush replied, none.

Hearing closed. No other discussion or comment.

Newton made a motion to approve and adopt the proposed FY20 budget as presented. Martinez seconded the motion. MCU.

Morgan made a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Martinez seconded the motion. MCU.

Radio Project Update

Houghton gave an overview of the status of the radio project. On March 4th, StoryComm accepted recommendation to purchase a P25 radio system from Harris/RACOM. ISU Procurement was directed to move ahead to negotiate a final contract with RACOM. Negotiations are happening now.

The total cost of the project appears to be about \$11 million; roughly, \$5 million for infrastructure, \$2 million for guaranteed radio purchase and \$4 million for 15 year cost of ownership. This is an agreement not only to purchase the system, but also to help us manage and maintain it over the next 15 years.

There are two pieces to the process. RACOM has proposed a permanent solution that will include 5 tower sites in Story County. Proposed sites are at Gilbert, Wallace Hall (ISU), Cambridge, Zearing and the Justice Center in Nevada. The system will take 18-24 months to build out.

The solution guarantee will be 95% coverage countywide on portable radios in buildings up to 12dB (light build structure). There may be coverage in heavier build structures, but the 95% coverage cannot be guaranteed. Recognizing that the full build out will take time, RACOM also proposed a 3-site temporary P25 system that could be operational within 6 months of contract signing. The details about the temporary system are not set in stone. There is some work to be done to make sure the northeast corner of the county gets covered. A quick build does change the time span that agencies will have to purchase radios.

Potential radio costs for standard radios that include what we realistically think needs to be in a radio:

Public Safety portable- \$3,000

Public Works portable- \$1,400-\$1,900

Mobile radios- \$3,000-\$3,800

Fire portable- \$3,500 (NFPA approved, remote mics, intrinsically safe, immersible)

The radios as part of the contract will be Harris brand. RACOM will come with a roadshow to give users the opportunity to see what is available and choose options. There are added options that would increase cost and likely options that can be pulled out to reduce cost.

There will also be a set of minimum requirements for equipment going on the system; those rules have not yet been developed.

Guaranteed radios- within the contract the County, City of Ames and ISU have guaranteed to purchase a mass of about 750 radios. There is the possibility that more discounts will apply if we buy enough radios above the guarantee.

RACOM will hold contract prices until 1 year after final acceptance of the radio system. RACOM will also have a program to sell radios at 0% interest through December 2021 to give agencies several budget cycles to spread out costs. Additionally, if agencies buy radios on the contract during the initial purchasing period, the radios will be covered by the 15 year maintenance agreement.

Agencies need to start thinking about how many radios they would buy at the price points given. Roush will be the point of contact to report numbers.

The 911 Board will be buying the paging system- infrastructure and pagers. Paging will go up with the rest of the system.

Dispatch will keep the Zetron consoles while we operate on the temporary system. Eventually, they will be replaced with Harris Symphony consoles. RACOM is offering 100% credit on the Zetron consoles.

Morgan asked if Marshalltown will be the local radio distributor. Houghton answered yes, at this time we are anticipating Marshalltown.

Christie asked how long will the radios last and is there a drop-dead date when the current system won't work. Houghton said that he expects the radios to be a 12-15 year investment. We may not know the answer about a date until after the final contract is negotiated.

One thing that has driven the consideration of a temporary system is circumstances with EE and the Alleman, IA tower. We are anticipating we have about a year before EE does something drastic. The goal is to be on the temporary system before prices soar or service is dropped.

Christie asked if there are any grants that could help the small communities. Hendrick responded that as a county fire agency, we have already applied for the AFG grant that would cover radio costs for the fire agencies (including EMS if combined). The grant does have a 10% match. Hackett added that we expect to hear status of the grant in June; government shutdown and technological hurdles have delayed the review process. Individual budgets do affect the grant. If communities/agencies budget for radios, they will be disqualified from the grant.

Hendrick asked Houghton if there is an estimated date for contract signing. Houghton answered that the original intent was to take the contract to the Ames City Council on April 9th and then StoryComm would meet shortly thereafter for contract signing. Procurement reports that contract negotiations are going smoothly and they expect to meet that date.

Christie asked how the tornado in Marshalltown would have affected us with RACOM. Roush answered the RACOM system kept going. We would not have been affected at all. Bowers added that we will be getting our own core which would have kept us up in that situation even if Marshalltown went down. We will also have a backup core in Johnson Co., Linn Co. and in Marshalltown.

The new design includes connections to the RACOM SARA system directly. The state is already in the process of making sure that all the agencies have connection to the ISICS channels. Story County will get a grant from the state to buy equipment to access ISICS. The university is still waiting to see if they will get the grant as well.

There will be an overlap period where dispatch will be able to talk to both the existing Motorola system and the new Harris P25 system. That period will end and dispatch will not be able to talk to the existing Motorola business grade system.

Fleenor asked about the likelihood of using portable radios only, not needing mobiles. Houghton said the anticipation is that the coverage of the new design will be robust enough that you won't need mobiles in the vehicles, but agencies will have to make that decision for themselves. Cychosz agreed, adding that other agencies have had success with portables only but there are tradeoffs.

Other Business

The working group is willing to answer any questions about why RACOM was chosen over Motorola. All good, solid equipment, but RACOM came in with an understanding of who Story County is and tailored the system and the process to our needs.

Hackett offered to push the radio numbers that were collected for the AFG grant back out to the departments to reference.

Comments for the Public

None

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

Thank you to everyone who has worked on this radio project and to those whose efforts went into the AFG grant.

Newton moved to adjourn; Kepley seconded the motion. MCU.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Roush, Secretary
Database Coordinator