



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager
FROM: Jack Kelanic, Director, Information Technology Department *JK*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: South Sound 911 Memorandum of Understanding – April 25, 2017
DATE: April 7, 2017

SUMMARY:

The Information Technology Department (ITD) recommends executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Sound 911 addressing emergency radio system access fees charged to regional public safety agencies in 2017.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Councilmember Lonergan.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

By improving public safety communication systems used by Tacoma Police and Tacoma Fire and other regional police and fire agencies, and by securing revenue to cover increased operating costs, the MOU will:

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

The City has owned and operated an 800 MHz emergency radio communications system in support of critical City services provided by Tacoma Police, Tacoma Fire, Public Works, and Environmental Services for many years. To further regional interoperability for public safety providers, the City extended access to its emergency radio communications system for other local law enforcement agencies, fire companies, and other first-responders throughout the Tacoma-Lakewood-Puyallup metropolitan area in 2003.

There are now 27 external agencies, or approximately 1,366 external radio subscribers on Tacoma's emergency communications system.

ITD charges radio access fees to all customers of \$35.65/month (non-dispatched service) and \$45.52 (dispatched service) per radio as outlined in the City's Public Safety Radio System User Agreement with each agency.

In January 2016, the City Council approved resolution 39374, authorizing the execution of an MOU between the City, South Sound 911, and Pierce County to cap monthly fees at \$30/month for South Sound 911 customer agencies, and to reimburse the City in the one-time amount of \$445,859 to offset lost revenue in 2016.

ISSUE:

The City's radio system operating costs and customer base have grown commensurately from 2016 to 2017. Accordingly, ITD has announced that it will not increase access fees in 2017.

South Sound 911 has proposed a 2017 fee cap for all participating agencies of \$31.50/month per radio, in a continued effort to stabilize radio service access fees and to neutralize potential market forces created by pricing differences between the City and Pierce County.



Staff recommends executing an MOU with South Sound 911 such that in exchange for the City accepting reduced radio access fees from its customers at \$31.50/month per radio, South Sound 911 would reimburse the City for lost revenue in the amount of \$413,702. This agreement would be valid through December 31, 2017, and would only apply for South Sound 911 customer agencies. Additionally, the City would support radio system interoperability enhancements with Pierce County.

The parties would continue to collaborate towards longer-term solutions.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is for the City to bill customer agencies at the non-discounted rate. This could have undesirable impacts on regional public safety communications, as some agencies may need to reduce the number of radios, switch service providers, or establish alternative communications systems without the interoperability features of the City and County systems.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended to execute an MOU with South Sound 911 addressing emergency radio system access fees charged to regional public safety agencies in 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT:

With approval, the City will receive revenue from South Sound 911, in exchange for receiving reduced radio access fees from its dispatched public safety customers. Revenue received from South Sound 911 for \$413,702 will be added to cost element 4343503 to allow for a reduction in cost element 4345381 of \$413,702.

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
South Sound 911	822100	4343503	\$ (413,702)
Dispatched Public Safety Customers	822100	4345381	\$ (794,954)
TOTAL			\$ (1,208,656)

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: There will be no appropriation increase or impact to the overall budget for revenue as a result of this approval.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes