



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Jack Kelanic, Director of Information Technology *JK*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: South Sound 911 Memorandum of Understanding – January 19, 2016
DATE: January 4, 2016

SUMMARY:

The Information Technology Department (ITD) recommends entering into a one-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Sound 911 and Pierce County’s Combined Communications Network (CCN) regarding public safety radio system access fees charged to regional public safety agencies in 2016.

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 its 800 MHz public safety radio communications network since 2003 in support of critical City services provided by Tacoma Police, Tacoma Fire, Public Works, Environmental Services and other Tacoma metropolitan area public safety agencies.

ITD recently announced radio service access fees of \$35.65/month per radio (not dispatched) and \$45.52/month per radio (dispatched), effective January 1, 2016. These fees reflect the first increase in thirteen years and are directly related to higher Motorola, Inc. support costs associated with the recently-upgraded digital system.

Separately and under a different service model with higher access fees than the City, Pierce County provides radio communication services to Pierce Transit and other regional public safety agencies through CCN, a new legal entity.

South Sound 911 has proposed a “fee cap” for all participating agencies, limited to \$30/month per radio, in an effort to stabilize public safety radio service access fees and to neutralize financially-motivated changes between the two radio systems operated by the City and Pierce County CCN. As such, South Sound 911 has authorized up to \$2.5M in its 2016 operating budget to reimburse the City and Pierce County CCN.

ISSUE:

South Sound 911 would reimburse the City \$445,859, on a one-time basis, in exchange for the City accepting \$30/month per radio from its public safety customers in 2016 and continuing to collaborate towards a longer-term solution in which South Sound 911 could have a role in supporting operation of both systems for participating public safety agencies.



Similarly, South Sound 911 would reimburse Pierce County CCN \$1,850,029 in 2016.

A three-party MOU has been drafted between the City, Pierce County CCN, and South Sound 911.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the MOU is not approved, ITD will charge its customers the published access fees of \$35.65/month per radio (non-dispatched) and \$45.52/month per radio (dispatched) in 2016, thereby generating sufficient revenue to cover the cost of radio service operations.

This is not the preferred alternative because smaller public safety agencies in the region may struggle to pay the access fees, and may need to reduce radio quantities or limit usage of the communications services.

RECOMMENDATION:

ITD recommends approval of this MOU. Revenues would primarily be used to cover higher Motorola, Inc. support costs, but may also be used to lower internal charges to the General Fund public safety departments in the current or future biennium, to increase Fund 5540 replacement reserves, or for future public safety communications capital improvement projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City would receive four quarterly payments of \$111,465 from South Sound 911 in 2016. Those payments, combined with additional customer revenue, would augment 2016 projected Radio Fund 5540 revenues by an estimated \$564,000.

EXPENDITURES:

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

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
South Sound 911	822100	4345385	\$445,859
TOTAL			\$445,859

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE



TOTAL			

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$445,859

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED. N/A

