

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: November 2, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council

From: Fire Department

Presentation By: Jesse Alexander, Fire Chief

Summary

Subject: Purchase of Motorola portable handheld radios and required accessories

Recommendation:

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the sole source purchase of 36 portable handheld radios and required radio accessories from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$213,747.67
- B. Authorize the Finance Director to use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act account 2560-69201 in the amount of \$213,747.67

Fiscal Impact: \$213,747.67 American Rescue Plan Act account, 2560-69201

Purpose:

Purchase 36 Motorola portable handheld radios and required accessories for primary and reserve apparatus in the Fire Department.

Background:

Yuba City Fire Department (YCFD) is requesting authorization to purchase new P-25 compliant portable handheld radios for the Fire Department. YCFD has attempted twice to secure these portable radios in the 2018 and 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG); however, we were unsuccessful. Our current portable radios are at the end of their useful expected life, purchased over 13 years ago. It has become increasingly challenging to repair the current radio technology due to their age, lack of supply parts and the radio manufacturers no longer supporting the product. Any repair beyond simple cosmetic fixes (knob, battery, antenna) cannot occur. If the functionality of the radio is compromised, the radio must be permanently removed from service. We have lost approximately ten radios to attrition in the past two years. Our existing radios are limited to the number of frequencies/channels and do not have the mission-critical features that enhance firefighter safety (water resistance and high-temperature protection).

Analysis:

We request to purchase 36 portable handheld radios and required accessories, which would allow one radio for each firefighter, Command Staff, Prevention Staff, and three additional radios at each Fire Station for reserve apparatus. The purchase will include handheld radios (Four APX8000 and Thirty-Two APX6000), a spare battery for each radio, remote mics, leather protective cases, programming services, bank chargers for our five Fire Stations, nine single unit vehicle chargers, five desk chargers, and radio straps. The proposed new portable radios will have mission-critical capabilities, more rugged construction to be able to operate in hotter environments, better water resistance features, more straightforward operations with firefighter's

gloved hand, interoperable channels on multiple frequency bands within one radio, P-25 compliant technology, clearer transmissions with improved clarity, and firefighter down activation capabilities. The technology found in the APX radios is compatible with the technology found in our recently purchased MSA Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). In addition, the radios can pair via Bluetooth to the voice amplifier in our firefighter facemask to improve the clarity of the radio communications on the fire ground. These upgrades will provide for more reliable communications and enhanced firefighter safety. These Motorola APX8000 and APX600 radios are industry standard, and Motorola is a brand we have consistently used at YCFD. The radios and accessories will meet or exceed IP68 ratings, which define water and dust resistance and is one of the highest standards for radios testing.

We are requesting (32) APX6000 portable radios, which are single-band radios that support VHF frequencies. These radios would allow us to communicate with all surrounding fire agencies. CalFire planned to support these radios on Mutual Aid Incidents in 2020, but that has been delayed; however, we expect the transition to occur in the next couple of years. In addition, we are requesting (4) APX8000 portable radios, which are dual-band radios operating on VHF (Fire) and UHF (Law) frequencies. In addition to having the ability to communicate with all surrounding fire agencies, we will also have the ability to communicate with surrounding law enforcement agencies. Thus, our Chief Officers can better coordinate in Unified Command with law enforcement on active shooter situations, water rescues, apartment complex fires, and event planning. In addition, the purchase of these portable radios at one time will allow for consistent training and standardization of our radio traffic operations, which will improve efficiency and firefighter safety.

Fiscal Impact:

\$213,747.67 American Rescue Plan Act account, 2560-69201

Alternatives:

- 1) Do not approve the supplemental appropriation and direct staff to find an alternative funding source.
- 2) Do not authorize the purchase of new Motorola portable handheld radios.

Recommendation:

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the sole source purchase of 36 portable handheld radios and required radio accessories from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$213,747.67.
- B. Authorize the Finance Director to use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act account 2560-69201 in the amount of \$213,747.67

Attachment:

1. Resolution

Prepared By:

/s/ Jesse Alexander

Jesse Alexander
Fire Chief

Submitted By:

/s/ Dave Vaughn

Dave Vaughn
City Manager

Reviewed By:

City Attorney

[SLC by email](#)

ATTACHMENT 1

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUBA CITY
AUTHORIZING THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AND PROGRAMMING OF
MOTOROLA PORTABLE HANDHELD RADIOS AND REQUIRED RADIO
ACCESSORIES FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Yuba City Fire Department is requesting authorization to purchase P-25 compliant Motorola portable radios and required accessories; and

WHEREAS, the Yuba City Fire Department applied under the 2018 and 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) to fund the purchase and were unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department requests approval to utilize \$213,747.67 from the American Rescue Plan Act for the purchase of portable radios and accessories; and

WHEREAS, the City has met the requirements to sole source the equipment purchase pursuant to City Purchasing Policies section 8-8.4.2; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to authorize the sole source purchase from Motorola Solutions, for the 36 portable radios and radio accessories.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Yuba City as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct, and are hereby incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council hereby approves the sole source purchase of Motorola portable radios and required accessories through Motorola Solutions. The City Council finds that a sole source award is appropriate on grounds including that Motorola Solutions is the sole authorized manufacturer of each type of Motorola radio equipment, the product is one which Fire Department staff already have expertise such that retraining costs and time will be reduced, and the requested product has unique performance and quality specifications which are essential to Department operations and which are not available in comparable products. The City Council further finds that the proposed prices for the equipment are reasonable and on par with previous projects of a similar size undertaken by other public agencies, and the purchase of the equipment is in the best interests of the City. As such, the City Council hereby approves the sole source purchase of Motorola portable radios and associated accessories through Motorola Solutions. The City Manager is authorized to entered into an agreement for the same, in an amount not to exceed \$213,747.67, subject as to approval as to legal form by the City Attorney.

Section 3. The City Council approves the authorization of the Finance Director to use funds from the American Rescue Plan account 2560-69201 in the amount of \$213,747.67.

The foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Yuba City at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of November, 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Marc Boomgaarden, Mayor

Ciara Wakefield, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
COUNSEL FOR YUBA CITY:

Shannon Chaffin, City Attorney
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP