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**TO: David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager**

**FROM: Michael J. Torrence, Fire Chief**

**DATE: December 10, 2011**

**RE: STARCOM RADIO CHANGE ORDER**

Please place the following on the October 6, 2011 Board of Trustees' Agenda.

**Background:**

This memorandum provides background and a recommendation to sign off on a change order to purchase 17 portable radios and 13 mobile radios to be utilized by the fire department through the countywide Starcom Radio project. The Emergency Telephone Systems Board of DuPage County (ETSB) has been overseeing the Starcom Radio project. Police and fire agencies throughout the county have been asked to review their current radio orders through the grant program and make necessary changes at this time. The fire department identified the need for all firefighters to have portable radios which created a shortfall of 17 portables in addition to 13 mobile radios. Funding for the additional radios will come from various cost centers of the fire department.

As mentioned during the budget cycle the fire department through a grant will be receiving 48 portable radios to be used with the Starcom Radio System. One portable radio will be issued to every firefighter and officer. The fire department will be receiving more than \$281,904.00 worth of radios and accessories through this grant. Our department will be purchasing an additional 17 portable radios (Apex7000 models) at a cost of \$99,841.00 (\$5,873.00 each) to be utilized by firefighters and officers. The 13 mobile radios will be used by the fire fleet and command vehicles at a cost of \$75,600.00 (\$5,815 each). The fire department recognized this additional expense for the 17 portable radios and 13 mobile radios. The radios will be funded by the Illinois Municipal Fund (settlement through DuPage Communications) of \$85,000 (a tentative intergovernmental agreement has been approved by the Executive Committee of DuComm and is awaiting final approval by the DuComm Board of Directors in October). The additional \$90,441 will be funded by: \$80,000 through the Foreign Fire Tax Fund (2375), \$6,000 through Emergency Preparedness Account (2360), and \$4,441.00 through the Donation account (8502).

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Ringa had the insight to approach the Foreign Fire Tax Board for assisting the funding of the radio purchase. The Village does not have access to Foreign Fire Tax dollars. It is up to the Foreign Fire Tax Board to disseminate those funds how they see fit. That Board chose to take more than fifty percent of their coffer and put it into this purchase. I commend them for making that choice, ensuring the highest level of safety by enhancing our emergency communication abilities.

#### Change Order-September 16, 2011

This past week a letter was sent out to all agencies to review their orders and make any changes so that the ETSB can work on Change Order #3 with the vendor. The fire department is locked into the initial portable radio order. However no mobile radios were part of this order and a shortfall of 17 portable radios was discovered to outfit all firefighters.

It is important that all firefighters and officers carry portable radios as communication is vital.

Thirteen fire vehicles (engines, trucks, medic units and command vehicle) have been identified and are in need to keep the same communication level available in place as it exists today. When the Starcom Radio System goes live sometime after January our communication will be reduced and cause issues if we do not have these mobile radios in place.

The Command Vehicle needs a mobile radio to monitor channels from a primary channel. For instance, on the fire scene they will need to monitor Fire East and fire ground channels. Additionally, we will monitor secondary channels for our special events.

The vendor is offering four years of free air time on the mobile and portable radios purchased through this change order along with a four year warranty on the radios. If we purchase a mobile radio or portable radio, not part of the project, the warranty on the radio is one year and no free airtime at the municipality's monthly expense. Having this incentive of free air time for four years per radio and four years of warranty along with maintaining the same level of communication in all radios is why staff is requesting this change order of behalf of the Lombard Fire Department.

#### **Recommendations:**

Staff recommends the Village President and Clerk to sign off on the change order 17 APEX7000 Portables and 13 Mobiles APEX7500 to be included in the ETSB's Change Order #3 with the vendor.

MJT:lh

Attachments