

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA
AUTHORIZING THE MARINA FIRE DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATION IN MONTEREY
CITY'S REGIONAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY (DHS), FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA),
ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG), FOR THE PURCHASE OF
MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIOS

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association has recommended that a regional approach be developed for the grant to replace fire department portable and mobile radios, and;

WHEREAS, The City of Marina is an eligible recipient of grants from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (AFG),

WHEREAS, Monterey City is submitting a Regional Grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for the purchase of mobile and portable radios; and

WHEREAS, purchasing mobile and portable radios through a regional grant process allows the City to realize the cost savings of a grant purchase, and;

WHEREAS, the current Marina Fire Departments radios are Kenwood Version 1 and Version 2 radios that will not operate on the NGEN radio system, and;

WHEREAS, by upgrading our communications equipment, the Marina Fire Department will be able to operate on the NGEN system, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Monterey Fire Department will serve as host agency for the mobile radio grant, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Marina as follows:

1. Consider adopting Resolution No. 2018-, authorizing the Marina Fire Departments participation in Monterey City's Regional grant application to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (AFG), for the purchase of mobile and portable radios

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 6th day of February 2018 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Amadeo, Morton, O'Connell, Brown, Delgado

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

February 6, 2018

Item No. **8f(1)**

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of February 6, 2018

**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2018,
AUTHORIZING THE MARINA FIRE DEPARTMENTS
PARTICIPATION IN MONTEREY CITY'S REGIONAL GRANT
APPLICATION TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY (DHS), FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
(FEMA), ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG),
FOR THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIOS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Consider adopting Resolution No. 2018-, authorizing the Marina Fire Departments participation in Monterey City's Regional grant application to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (AFG), for the purchase of mobile and portable radios

BACKGROUND:

The land mobile radio system in Monterey County has undergone major upgrades to meet the increasing demands of Public Safety and other users of the county wide radio system known as the "NGEN" system. The NGEN system is a digital trunked system that utilizes spectrum across multiple bands to provide secure, reliable communications for public safety users and the bandwidth necessary to accommodate other users of the system.

In 2006, Monterey County Fire Departments were successful in their AFG grant request to purchase mobile and portable radios. Through this grant, P25 Kenwood Mobile and Portable radios were purchased for all the Fire Departments in Monterey County. These radios were designed to operate on the NGEN system.

When the NGEN system was built out and in the final testing stages, the Monterey County Fire Departments upgraded their radios to work on the NGEN system. It became apparent very quickly that the Kenwood Radios were not operating correctly. Users were missing traffic, emergency transmissions were not being transmitted or received, we did not have reliable communications. Because of the safety issues, the Fire Departments, except for the Salinas Fire Department, went back to the old system. The Salinas Fire Department had purchased Harris Unity Radios that work on the NGEN system.

The Monterey County Radio shop brought in experts from Harris (the manufacture of the system) and Kenwood to resolve the issues. After of over a year of testing and diagnosis, it has been determined that Version 1 and Version 2 Kenwood radios will not work on the system. All the Monterey County Fire Department Radios purchased through the grant are Version 1 or Version 2. The only Kenwood radios that will work on the system are Version 3 or higher. The Marina Fire Department has Version 2 radios leaving the only viable option for the Marina Fire Department and the other Monterey County Fire departments is to upgrade their communications equipment.

The County has informed the Fire Agencies that the legacy analog system in use today is not part of the NGEN system and will not be supported in the near future. If users want to keep the system operationally, they would have to bear the cost.

Seaside, Monterey and Marina hosted regional AFG radio grants last year. The Seaside regional grant was successful allowing those agencies to purchase new radios to operate on the NGEN system. Marina was not successful in their grant request. Monterey City was successful, but the grant was reduced and they were advised to apply again.

Monterey City's Regional grant will include, Salinas City, Monterey City, Marina City, Big Sur and King City Fire Departments. Monterey County Regional and North County have also submitted a AFG Grant application for their communication needs. If the grant requests are successful, every Monterey County Fire Department will be able to purchase mobile and portable radios that will work on the NGEN system.

ANALYSIS:

Each grant requires a cost share, which was developed by all participating fire agencies. The Marina Fire Departments share of the mobile and portable radio grant would be \$259,200. If the grant is successful the Marina Fire Departments cost share is 16.5% or \$42,768, a savings of \$214,768.

Our current radios are over 11 years old. The useful life span of a mobile or portable radio is 8 to 10 years and because of technology changes, the useful life span is shrinking. Our communications equipment is past due for replacement.

Radios are the link to Fire Comm for receiving emergency calls and communicating to other fire personnel at an emergency. The NGEN system is our link to communicate with Law Enforcement, EMS and other agencies utilizing the Interoperability features the NGEN system.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the Monterey City Regional grant is awarded, we will purchase an estimated \$259,200.00 worth of radios for \$42,768.00 which equates to 16.5% of the purchase price, a savings of \$214,432.00. If the grant is successful, this would be an expense in the 2018/2019 budget year.

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted for City Council consideration and possible action.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug McCoun
Fire Chief
City of Marina

REVIEWED/CONCUR:

Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina