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Worksession

MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2013

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Fred Banner, Information Technologies Director
Shauna Billingsley, City Attorney

SUBJECT: **Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding (COF Contract No. 2013-0203) between Williamson County, Tennessee, the City of Brentwood, the City of Franklin and the Williamson County Emergency Communications District for the development of a County-wide radio system**

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) with information to consider a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Franklin, City of Brentwood, Williamson County and the Williamson County Emergency Communication District for the joint cooperative undertaking concerning the establishment and operation of a county-wide radio and notification system.

Background

In 2006, the City of Franklin implemented an 800 MHz radio system. The radio system provides highly reliable and effective communication support for public safety and other City services. The system has substantial capacity available that could support service beyond Franklin's borders, if additional tower sites were developed and added to the system. Currently, the City of Brentwood and Williamson County are operating on older radio system platforms (UHF). Due to the differing radio platforms, interoperability (the ability for radio communication to take place between agencies/departments) is limited. In fact, the most consistent and concerning critique from inter-jurisdictional emergency responses and preparedness drills is the inability of public safety entities and first responders to communicate effectively with one another through the radio system.

Over the past two years, representatives from the administration and public safety functions from the City of Franklin, City of Brentwood, and Williamson County (including Public Safety, Sheriff and Emergency Medical Services departments) have been meeting through a Public Safety Strategic Work Group with the goal to improve collaboration and overall service delivery among the various jurisdiction. This work group has identified the opportunity to work together to develop a true county-wide radio system based on the City of Franklin's existing 800 MHz radio system. As a result, the City of Franklin, City of Brentwood, Williamson County, and the Williamson County Emergency Communications District have drafted an MOU to provide a framework between the entities that will allow a plan for a county-wide radio system to be developed. Ultimately, the plan for implementation would be the subject of an interlocal agreement between the entities. The interlocal agreement would require further approval from the respective governing bodies of each entity.

In addition to providing radio service throughout the county, the 800MHz radio system could also be linked to the Metro Nashville-Davidson County radio system, which operates on a similar platform. In addition to extending the "reach" of the system, connecting to the Metro system would have the mutual benefit of providing redundancy to each system. This opportunity will need to be developed further and would also be the subject of an interlocal agreement.



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Financial Impact

While the Memorandum of Understanding (COF Contract No. 2013-0203) for this joint cooperative undertaking has no direct financial impact, a separate interlocal agreement will need to be drafted and approved once the parties more fully understand and agree to the process. This interlocal would be expected to specify the capital and operating support to be provide by each entity.

Recommendation

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (COF Contract No. 2013-0203) between the City of Franklin, City of Brentwood, Williamson County and the Williamson County Emergency Communication District for the joint cooperative undertaking concerning the establishment and operation of a county-wide radio and notification system is recommended.