



MENDOCINO COUNTY MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE OFFICE – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

DATE: December 12, 2023
TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Tony Rakes, Acting Deputy CEO
RE: Phase III – Microwave Radio Equipment Replacement

Background

The County's existing radio equipment was installed in 2007/2008 and has reached its end of useful life, meaning there are no longer manufacturer supplied technical support and/or manufacturer supplied replacement parts available.

Initiative 69 of the IT Master Plan adopted in November 2018, included recommendations to replace various components of the County's public safety microwave radio communications network as it is critical infrastructure that supports our public safety, emergency medical services, and fire protection stakeholders.

On October 22, 2019, the Board accepted a presentation from the CEO - Information Services Division regarding an assessment and needs of the County's Public Safety Microwave Radio Communications Network. This presentation included recommendations of phased replacements. Phase I included simulcast system implementation and replaced end of life repeater equipment. Phase II included replacing end of life multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) equipment. Phase III will include replacing end of life radio equipment with microwave and IP/MPLS deployment services.

Exception to Bidding Summary

The County's microwave radio system transports all Public Safety Radio Communications between the various County, City, and State 911 PSAP dispatch centers to and from all remote repeater sites for Mendocino County Sheriff, Ukiah, Willits, and Ft Bragg Police departments, all 21 County Fire Departments within Mendocino County, County Roads/Transportation, Emergency Medical dispatch, and ambulance radio traffic to and from our County Hospitals. Also included are many State and Local First responder allied agencies, CALFIRE, California Highway Patrol, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sonoma County Sheriff, Fire and Medical dispatch and command. All Mendocino County and many municipal city departments also use this Microwave system to transport Computer Data and Data between Ukiah, Willits and Ft Bragg County offices and data centers.

The new Nokia microwave radio system is a direct "drop in" replacement to our existing system and will seamlessly integrate with our existing systems. These platforms are designed to function as a complete unified system allowing a virtually seamless migration with absolute minimum downtime, maximum reliability, resiliency, and availability during the old to new migration as well as in normal day-to-day operation. No other microwave vendor offers this unique system architecture and integration with our existing Nokia platform. Due to the complexity of the Mendocino County multi-site microwave radio system this unified RF and data system has been specifically engineered for Mendocino County to be installed in a phased approach greatly reducing downtime during the installation and migration process. A single vendor/single system is necessary to our mission critical Public Safety and data operations for simplified maintenance, system management using the Nokia proprietary Network Management System and a single vendor support solution.

Pricing identified in this agreement is based on competitively bid NASPO contract # 00318/7-22-70-49-15 and referenced as Exhibit A of the proposed agreement.

Certain work within the contract scope may be considered a public work, such as installation of equipment cabinets. *Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency* (1980) 104 Cal.App.3d 631 provides that even when competitive bidding is a statutory requirement, there are certain well recognized exceptions that rule. One is where the nature of the subject of the contract is such that competitive proposals would be unavailing or would not produce an advantage and competitive bidding would be undesirable, impractical, or impossible. Many of the services being provided involve installation and setup of specific technical equipment by the manufacturer itself. It is highly desirable for the manufacturer to oversee and perform all aspects of the installation of the equipment to ensure it is installed properly. Attempting to segregate any work, separately bid out such work, and coordinate additional contractors would necessarily slow down the implementation of a project necessary to upgrade public safety radio equipment, none of which would produce an advantage for the County.

Recommended Action/Motion:

Approve Agreement with Nokia of America Corporation in the amount of \$2,148,697.58 for microwave and IP/MPLS deployment services, effective upon full execution through December 31, 2024, and finding that competitive bidding for the project would be undesirable, impractical and not produce an advantage to the County; authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to execute any and all documents in relation to the transaction; authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to sign any future amendments up to 5% of the original agreement amount; and authorize Chair to sign same.