



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00722

Agenda Date: 11/14/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Progress of negotiations for the purchase of the Trunked Radio System.

Presenter:

Assistant County Manager Tommy Crosby 352-374-5262

Senior Assistant County Attorney David Forziano 352-374-5218

Description:

Public discussion of unresolved negotiated items between staff of Gainesville Regional Utilities Communication (GRUCom) and the County, regarding the sales and purchase of the Trunked Radio System.

Recommended Action:

No staff recommendation at the time of the creation of this agenda item.

Prior Board Motions:

September 26, 2023, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Commissioner Chestnut, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Wheeler, GRU General Manager Tony Cunningham, and County Attorney Torres presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. To extend the MOU till December 31, 2023, and direct County staff to identify any open items in October for a Board discussion by the end of October so that the Board can provide clear direction.
2. Staff to draft a memo with a brief history of the sale and expressing the County's interest and its importance to public safety so that it can be provided to the Governing Board as soon as it is selected to educate them on the matter and complete the sale by the end of the year. Grant authority to staff to negotiate with the newly selected Board.
3. If the sale cannot be completed by the end of the year, then staff is directed to move forward with implementing a Countywide System.

The motion carried 5-0.

On October 24, 2023, the Board requested that staff bring any unresolved issues of the Trunked Radio System Agreement to the board for a public discussion.

February 28, 2023, at the Regular Board of County Commission Meeting:

Commissioner Alford moved the following:

Part 1:

Authorize Staff to purchase the Trunked Radio System from Gainesville Regional Utilities for Eight Million Dollars and assume ownership and operation on October 1, 2023 with payments for service from all users fixed for 5 years. GRU will agree to pay \$164,000 per year for 5 years (\$820,000), and the City of Gainesville will agree to pay \$937,000 for 2 years and \$750,000 for the following 3 years (\$4,124,000). Authorize staff to memorialize these terms and prepare a contract in collaboration with the County's Legal and Procurement Offices.

Part 2:

If GRU and the City of Gainesville will not contractually agree to these full amounts staff will cease discussions with GRU and begin development and construction of a County-owned trunked radio system immediately.

Part 3:

Authorize staff to immediately advertise and hire a Radio Systems Manager.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Chair Prizzia recognized Tamara Robbins, Tommy Crosby, County Manager Lieberman, and Bruce Borders who presented comments to the Board of County Commission (Board and/or BoCC).

The motion carried 5-0.

February 23, 2021, the BoCC heard the Presentation, Commissioner Prizzia, Assistant County Manager Crosby, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Prizzia, and Commissioner Alford presented comments.

Commissioner Alford moved the following: SRA. 2nd Wheeler

- Authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the City of Gainesville/GRU for the Trunk Radio System for this year only.
- Authorize staff to continue negotiations with GRU to develop a long-term partnership agreement for the Trunk Radio System.
- Authorize staff to explore alternate plans for a County-wide radio system in the event the parties are unable to reach an agreement.

The motion carried 5-0.

Fiscal Note:

001.00.0065.525.99.24 - \$8,419,286

052.00.0064.519.99.24 - \$1,000,000 project# ARP2021x006 (ARP)

Plus: \$4,124,000 City of Gainesville and \$820,000 GRU collected over 5 years

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety

Background:

On February 28, 2023, the Board adopted a motion to approve the purchase of the TRS from the City of Gainesville (City) for a purchase price of \$8M and authorized staff to negotiate and develop said

purchase agreements. Staff from the County and City meet regularly to negotiate the terms and conditions for the purchase within the parameters approved by the Board on February 28, 2023, and made significant progress through the months of March, April and May 2023.