



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00187

Agenda Date: 3/25/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Public Safety Radio Enhancement Presentation

Presenter:

Harold Theus, Fire Chief, 352-384-3101

Description:

Presentation on the status of the Public Safety Radio System (PSRS) since acquisition

Recommended Action:

- Hear presentation on status of the Public Safety Radio System (PSRS) since acquisition and seek direction for enhancements to bolster resiliency and redundancy. Staff will explore funding options to support necessary improvements during budget development.

Prior Board Motions:

On December 10, 2024, the Board approved the 4 service agreements related to the tower locations

On December 12, 2023, the Board authorized the sale agreement and related documents to complete the transaction for the Trunked Radio System

Fiscal Note:

Funding Options:

1. Virtual Prime, Geographically Redundant Prime, Multiprotocol Label Switching – \$2,100,000
2. Virtual Prime, Geographically Redundant Prime, Multiprotocol Label Switching, Cirrus Central Core – Year 1 \$2,750,000, Year 2-5 \$175,000 per year, Tower Sites \$125,000 and annual recurring cost of fiber (currently \$175,000 per year) will increase based on negotiations
3. Virtual Prime, Geographically Redundant Prime, Multiprotocol Label Switching, Cirrus Central Core – 5-Year package price \$3,107,711, Tower sites \$125,000, and annual recurring cost of fiber (currently \$175,000 per year) will increase based on negotiations

The funding source will be identified once the decision of which option is made. Options include infrastructure surtax, resiliency grant, increase to Law Enforcement MSTU and Fire Assessment, one-time user assessment charge, and bonds.

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety/Infrastructure

Background:

On December 28, 2023, Alachua County acquired the Trunked Radio System, also known as the Public Safety Radio System (PSRS), from Gainesville Regional Utilities. The PSRS is a six-site, 13-channel trunked simulcast ASTRO 25 system utilizing Motorola Solutions' G-Series equipment. It serves all Fire Rescue and Law Enforcement departments, along with other municipal and county departments that are not directly related to public safety.

Since the acquisition, county staff have collaborated with key stakeholders to evaluate the system, implement necessary maintenance improvements, and establish an agreement with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for oversight of daily operations. Additionally, the county has worked with its radio consultant and Motorola Solutions to develop a strategic plan to enhance the system's effectiveness and resiliency.

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the actions since purchase and present options for enhancements immediately needed for system reliability and redundancy.