

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

435



**FROM:** Riverside County Information Technology, Riverside County Fire and Community Health Agency

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
September 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Migration of VHF / UHF radio systems to narrowband frequencies as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the purchase of radio equipment from current County and State contract awards, in an amount not to exceed \$1,519,283, in order to migrate County VHF / UHF radio systems to narrowband frequencies as mandated by the FCC, and,
2. Approve the reallocation of \$1,500,000 from general funds previously approved for the PSEC project and located in Fund 30121.

**BACKGROUND:** (Continued on Page 2)

Glenn Patterson for

Roger Uminski for

Greg R. Stoddard  
Chief Technology Officer

John Hawkins  
Chief – Riverside County Fire

Dr. Eric K. Frykman  
Agency Director - CHA

**FINANCIAL  
DATA**

Current F.Y. Total Cost: \$ 1,519,283  
Current F.Y. Net County Cost: \$ 1,500,000  
Annual Net County Cost: \$ 0

In Current Year Budget: YES  
Budget Adjustment: —  
For Fiscal Year: 2010/2011

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Departmental Budgets and a \$1.5 million PSEC funding contribution to Fire

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 ☐  
Requires 4/5 Vote ☐

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

BY:   
Serena Chow

**County Executive Office Signature**

☒ Policy  
☒ Policy

☐ Consent  
☐ Consent

Dep't Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: A11

Agenda Number:

3.41

Departmental Concurrence

Reviewed by  
CIP TEAM  
  
Christopher Hans

RE: Migration of VHF/UHF narrowband frequencies

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has directed that all VHF / UHF radio systems must be migrated to new frequencies, as defined by FCC Narrowband rules, no later than January 1, 2013. These frequencies are currently used by Riverside County Fire, Transportation and Land Management (TLMA), Flood Control, Parks, Recreation and Open District, Public Safety Mutual Aid, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), Community Health Agency, Riverside County Regional Medical Center and the Date Festival.

Although the FCC migration deadline is January 1, 2013, the County objective is to be compliant with the narrowband mandates by January 1, 2011. After this date, the FCC will no longer approve modifications to remaining older wideband systems, nor will wideband equipment and parts be provided by the manufacturers.

A project team consisting of Riverside County Fire and RCIT personnel coordinated with each department using VHF / UHF frequencies and compiled detailed inventories and projected one-time costs for each department to migrate to the narrowband frequencies or to other radio systems. Each department will be responsible for funding the migration of their radio systems.

County Fire, Community Health Agency (CHA) and RCIT (Mutual Aid) have opted to migrate to the narrowband solution. The remaining Departments have opted to take this opportunity to migrate to another radio system rather than migrating to the mandatory narrowband frequency. The costs for these Departments to migrate to another radio system or solution, including PSEC, will be developed as they move forward with implementation. The one-time migration cost to CHA will be \$5,000 and the cost to RCIT will be \$14,283. Both Departments have the funding in their current fiscal year budgets.

The total migration cost to Riverside County Fire is \$2,989,933. During previous fiscal year, County Fire achieved budgetary cost savings, and secured State grants to offset \$1,489,933 leaving a remaining balance of \$1,500,000 to be funded to complete the project during FY2010/11. Since this FCC requirement pertains to public safety radio for Fire, the PSEC Steering Committee, on July 13, 2010, approved the use of PSEC contingency funds to pay for Fire's remaining cost of \$1,500,000. The CFO has concurred with this action.

Approval of this request authorizes County Fire, CHA, and RCIT to move forward with their respective migrations to narrowband and allocates \$1,500,000 from the PSEC contingency fund for the Fire migration. Fire will provide to the Executive Office the expenditures associated with this migration for reimbursement up to the \$1,500,000.

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The narrowband program is in-step with the County's long-term strategy for radio frequency use and is in coordination with evolving national radio technology standards and the objectives of the Homeland Security SAFECOM program to maximize interoperability. Compliance with this program will ensure that critical County systems meet Federal mandates and provide continued sustainable operations. In addition, it will ensure that Southern California's finite and valuable frequency resources are preserved to serve the County's best interests.

**PRICE REASONABLENESS**

All pricing for this effort are provided through pre-existing bid contract awards for both the State of California and the County of Riverside.