



Item: Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) Radio System Upgrade Project – OF 1683

From: Randall E. McCamley, Fire Chief

Initiated By: Great Falls Fire Rescue

Presented By: Stephen A. Hester, Assistant Chief of Operations

Action Requested: Reject Bid and Readvertise

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission reject the single bid received from Highline Communications in the amount of \$161,002 for the GFFR Radio System Upgrade Project and readvertise the invitation to bid.

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls for the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission reject the single bid received from Highline Communications in the amount of \$161,002 and readvertise the invitation to bid.

Background:

Significant Impacts

The GFFR radio project has been designed to improve radio inter-agency interoperability and create a more robust radio communication system. Also, the project shall replace antiquated radio hardware so that fire radios can be connected functionally to other public safety agencies.

Workload Impacts

With the exception of project oversight and coordination on the part of GFFR staff, the project shall minimally impact Great Falls Fire Rescue. Public Works staff will install eight new mobile radios in about eight pieces of frontline and reserve fire apparatus. Additionally, the Dispatch Communication Manager will assist with fleet mapping the radio system to allow digital trunking and will also provide assistance with the installation and programming of any radio equipment installed at the consolidated dispatch center.

Purpose / Project Work Scope

A Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was awarded to the City in the amount of \$89,017. The AFG requires a 10% City funding match in the amount of \$9,890 for a project total of 98,907. The project goal is to improve radio interoperability and to build a more sustainable and robust radio system to be used specifically for GFFR radio communications. This project shall digitize and trunk radios into functional group channels that will allow interoperability between Great Falls Fire Rescue and Great Falls Police Department.

The GFFR frequencies and analog system shall remain intact so that in the event that the trunking system fails, GFFR will have the option of going back to the analog system to prevent a break in radio communication. Also, the Montana Mutual Aid frequencies shall be maintained and available for use during multi-jurisdictional incidents, thus sustaining GFFR's ability to communicate with County, and State resources for mutual aid being received or provided.

Evaluation and Selection Process

One bid was received and opened for this project on October 22, 2014, in the amount of \$161,002. This bid amount exceeds the total amount of the grant funds for this project. Staff shall reevaluate the bid specifications, make alterations and readvertise the project in order to get the project within budget.

Conclusion

City staff recommends to reject this bid because the bid amount exceeds federal grant funding, to reevaluate and update the specifications, and to readvertise the invitation to bid.

Fiscal Impact: The attached bid tabulation summarizes the bid that was received. Ninety percent of this project will be funded through the Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant and 10% of project shall be from City matching funds.

Alternatives: The City Commission could vote to award the contract to Highline Communications and not readvertise. However, GFFR does not have the excess amount over the grant award currently in its budget.

Attachments/Exhibits: Bid tabulation

CITY OF GREAT FALLS
PO BOX 5021
GREAT FALLS MT 59403

BID TABULATION SUMMARY
GREAT FALLS FIRE RESCUE (GFFR) RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT
OFFICE FILE 1683

Project Number
Bids Taken at Civic Center
Date: October 22, 2014
Tabulated By: Lisa Kunz
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| NAME & ADDRESS OF BIDDER | 10% Bid Security | Affidavit of Non-Collusion | Certificate of Non- Segregated Facilities | Certificate of Compliance with Insurance Requirements | TOTAL BID |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| | | | | | |
| HIGHLINE COMMUNICATIONS | 10% Bid Bond | √ | √ | √ | \$161,002 |
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