



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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: Accept Bid and Award Contract

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission award a contract to Highline Communications in the amount of \$92,272 for the GFFR Radio System Upgrade Project, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.

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

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission accept the single bid and award a contract to Highline Communications in the amount of \$92,272.

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

This project will be funded by a Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) awarded to the City in the amount of \$89,017, with a 10% local match. 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 December 3, 2014, in the amount of \$92,272. The bid amount is within the budget and meets all the specifications and requirements of the project.

Conclusion

City staff recommends that the proposed bid be accepted in the amount described. If accepted, work would be begin as soon as possible and be completed within 30 days of award.

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 not to award the contract to Highline Communications but further delays may cause the City to default on the federal grant agreement.

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: December 3, 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	√	√	√	√	\$92,272*

*Bid document noted \$92,277/Corrected to the summation of the unit prices totaling \$92,272