

## **RESOLUTION NO. 10451**

### **A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DONATION OF USED RADIO EQUIPMENT TO CASCADE COUNTY FOR USE BY THE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) § 3.4.080, the City may sell, trade, grant, donate or lease for any period of time any real or personal property to a governmental entity by negotiation without an appraisal or advertising for bids. If, by grant or donation, the real or personal property must be retained for a direct or perpetual benefit or use. Requirements, as specified in OCCGF § 3.4.010, 3.4.020 and 3.4.030 remain applicable; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of SB 352 by the 2019 Montana Legislature provided for a comprehensive plan to update and upgrade the statewide communication system, and provided for a financial investment by the State of Montana toward the radio infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the statewide effort to upgrade emergency service radio systems, the Great Falls City Commission adopted Resolution 10332 in March, 2020, that authorized the upgrade to a Motorola 800MHz public safety radio system and associated equipment and approved a lease-purchase agreement in connection therewith that put the City in a position to realize the full benefit of the opportunity provided by the passage of SB 352; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the upgraded public safety radio system, the Great Falls Police Department and Great Falls Fire Rescue have VHF trunked radio system equipment, in car mobile and portable personal radios and associated equipment, that are no longer in use or needed, and are no longer supported by the manufacturer; and

**WHEREAS**, the rural Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) don't have the means to upgrade systems and poses a challenge for VFD to communicate properly; and

**WHEREAS**, the VHF radio system equipment is still effective, can be serviced and capable of using the new infrastructure to keep the rural departments online; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Great Falls has entered into Interlocal agreements with Cascade County and Great Falls Fire Rescue has a mutual aid agreement to render fire, rescue and EMS services when requested. The radio system equipment would remain in the county and available for mutual aid assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of this resolution requires a four-fifths (4/5) vote of all the members of the City Commission pursuant to OCCGF § 3.4.010. OCCGF § 3.4.020 is not applicable as said personal property is not property held in trust for park purposes. Pursuant to the requirements of OCCGF § 3.4.030, Cascade County shall pay the publication costs of the required notice of public hearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, that:**

1. The donation of used equipment, specifically 48 APX 6000 Motorola portable radios, 15 APX 6500 Motorola mobile radios, 22 XTS 2500 Motorola portable radios, 93 XTS 5000 Motorola portable radios, 42 XTL 2500 Motorola mobile radios, 92 Impress single bank battery chargers, 8 Impress six bank battery chargers, 88 Motorola radio microphones, 78 Motorola radio antennas, 136 radio belt clips, 225 spare batteries, and 83 leather radio carry cases to Cascade County for use by the rural Volunteer Fire Departments, is hereby approved;
2. In return, Cascade County shall pay publication costs of the required notice of public hearing;
3. Pursuant to mutual aid agreements entered into between the Cascade County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments and Great Falls Fire Rescue, the radio system equipment shall remain in the county and available for mutual aid assistance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

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Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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Jeffrey M. Hindoién, City Attorney



Commission Meeting Date: March 15, 2022

**CITY OF GREAT FALLS  
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

**Item:** Resolution 10451 – Approving the Donation of Used Radio Equipment to Cascade County for Use by the Rural Volunteer Fire Departments

**From:** Great Falls Police Department and Great Falls Fire Rescue

**Initiated By:** Captain Doug Otto – Great Falls Police Department

**Presented By:** Chief Jeff Newton

**Action Requested:** Set a Public Hearing on Resolution 10451 for April 5, 2022

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (set/not set) a public hearing on Resolution 10451 for April 5, 2022.”

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, public comment, Commission discussion, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Commission set a public hearing on Resolution 10451 for April 5, 2022. If adopted, Resolution 10451 would approve the donation and transfer of used surplus mobile and portable radios and associated radio equipment from the Great Falls Police Department and Great Falls Fire Department to Cascade County Rural Fire Departments.

**Background:** In March of 2020, the Great Falls City Commission authorized the upgrade to a Motorola 800 MHz public safety radio system and associated equipment. As a result of the upgraded public safety radio system, the Great Falls Police Department and Great Falls Fire Rescue have VHF trunked radio system equipment, in car mobile and portable personal radios and associated equipment, that are no longer in use or needed, and are no longer supported by the manufacturer.

Cascade County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) do not have the means to upgrade radio systems, which poses a challenge for VFD to communicate properly. Additionally, VFD currently does not have enough radio equipment to outfit volunteer fire vehicles and personnel. The transfer of this surplus equipment would better equip volunteer firefighters to communicate more effectively during emergency situations.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact as the surplus items are currently in storage.

**Alternatives:** Not set a public hearing. The surplus items would remain in storage at the Great Falls Police Department and Great Falls Fire Rescue.

**Concurrences:** Great Falls Fire Rescue concurs with the transfer of the used surplus radio property.