

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Safety and Justice
INITIATED BY



David Sleeter
DRAFTED BY

Public Safety and Justice
SUBMITTED BY

February 11, 2011
DATE DRAFTED

**ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY ANALOG TO DIGITAL VOICE RADIO
CONVERSION**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County 911 Communications Center is responsible for the operation of the public
- 2 safety voice radio communications infrastructure within Rock County; and,
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, continuous interoperable radio communications between the public safety agencies of Rock
- 5 County and the 911 Communications Center are essential to providing the most efficient public safety
- 6 services to the citizens of Rock County; and,
- 7
- 8 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had mandated that all Rock County
- 9 public safety analog radio frequencies be "narrow-banded" by January 1, 2013; and,
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, the FCC is expected to mandate further "narrow-banding" of public safety radio frequencies
- 12 in the near future; and,
- 13
- 14 **WHEREAS**, a GeoComm Interoperability Study has shown that the "narrow-banding" of public safety
- 15 analog radio frequencies will reduce the current public safety radio coverage area in Rock County,
- 16 especially portable radio talk-back communications; and,
- 17
- 18 **WHEREAS**, with further "narrow-banding" restrictions the existing public safety voice radio
- 19 communications system will become too expensive to operate; and,
- 20
- 21 **WHEREAS**, approximately one-half of all existing Rock County public safety radio equipment is not
- 22 capable of "narrow-band" communications; and,
- 23
- 24 **WHEREAS**, converting the existing Rock County voice radio system to a digital mode will improve
- 25 radio coverage without adding any additional tower site locations; and,
- 26
- 27 **WHEREAS**, a digital mode public safety voice communications system better positions public safety
- 28 voice communications users for future radio technology upgrades, meets the FCC "narrow-banding"
- 29 mandate, and improves interoperability opportunities; and,
- 30
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Rock County public safety officials support the replacement of non-compliant radio
- 32 equipment with digital radio technology; and,
- 33
- 34 **WHEREAS**, 911 Communications Center user agencies will be responsible for the purchase of their
- 35 respective field radio equipment; and,
- 36
- 37 **WHEREAS**, funding to convert the Rock County public safety analog voice radio system to operate in a
- 38 digital mode has been included in the 2011-2012 budget; and,
- 39
- 40 **WHEREAS**, an Assistance to Firefighters grant application is pending to assist Rock County Fire/EMS
- 41 agencies with the purchase of digital field radio equipment; and,
- 42
- 43 **WHEREAS**, a significant amount of the existing analog radio communications equipment is
- 44 manufactured by Raytheon and can be modified to digital operations, thus reducing the analog to digital
- 45 conversion project cost; and,

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46 **WHEREAS**, General Communications, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin has been identified as the sole
 47 source vendor for this project and is the licensed Raytheon dealer covering Rock County; and,

48
 49 **WHEREAS**, the non-specialized equipment can be purchased off of the State of Wisconsin WSCSA
 50 contract; and,

51
 52 **WHEREAS**, General Communications, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin is, and has been for approximately
 53 17 years, the Rock County public safety voice radio system maintenance vendor; and,

54
 55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
 56 this 24th day of February 2011 that a contract in the amount of \$1,918,002 be awarded to
 57 General Communications, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin for the purchase of the necessary equipment and
 58 labor to convert the existing Rock County public safety voice radio infrastructure and 911
 59 Communications Center to digital mode operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Safety and Justice Committee

Ivan Collins
 Ivan Collins, Chair

Larry Wiedenfeld
 Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice Chair

Mary Beaver
 Mary Beaver

Henry Brill
 Henry Brill

Brian Knudson
 Brian Knudson

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Randolph Terronez
 Randolph Terronez
 Acting County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

\$2,275,717 is included in the 2011 budget for the Digital Radio Project, A/C 23-2417-0000-67200.
 This project is funded by County Sales tax receipts.

Sherry Oja
 Sherry Oja
 Senior Accountant / Assistant to the Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to Secs. 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. The County Communications Center Director advises this conversion project is pursuant to a state contract and there is documentation that General Communications, Inc., is the sole source provider of this conversion equipment in Wisconsin. As such, this resolution complies with the County's Purchasing Ordinance.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
 Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
 Corporation Counsel

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rock County Communications Center is directly responsible for the operation and maintenance of the public safety radio communications infrastructure throughout Rock County. Continuous interoperable voice radio communications between public safety agencies of Rock County and the 911 Communications Center are essential to providing the most efficient public safety services to the citizens of Rock County.

In 2008, Rock County and the cities of Janesville and Beloit contracted for a County-wide Interoperable Communications Study for the purposes of future public safety communications planning. To improve countywide public safety interoperability, and also meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate for "narrow-banding", the Study recommended that Rock County public safety voice communications move to a hybrid VHF-UHF digital trunked voice radio system. Rock County then contracted with a grant-writing vendor in an attempt to secure grant funding for the recommended digital trunked voice radio system. As of this date, no grant sources have been located for digital trunked infrastructure.

As mentioned above, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has announced that certain portions of radio frequency spectrum would be required to be "narrow-band" by January 1, 2013. This unfunded mandate applied to all public safety voice radio frequencies used within Rock County. "Narrow-banding" is the reduction of radio spectrum that each applicable radio frequency holds a license for. This mandate will result in a loss of radio coverage area for Rock County public safety (especially for portable radio equipment). Additionally, the FCC is expected to announce a further "narrow-banding" mandate in the near future. Further "narrow-banding" of the existing analog public safety radio frequencies would require a very large increase in the amount of voice radio infrastructure equipment and tower sites, thus making the system very expensive to operate.

Rock County public safety officials thoroughly researched the issue of future public safety voice radio communications. Their recommendation is for Rock County public safety to convert the existing analog voice radio communications system to a digital mode by January 1, 2013. This conversion will increase radio coverage within the County without requiring any additional tower site locations. The conversion will ultimately position Rock County public safety voice radio communications to meet near future expectations.

The County will fund the conversion of the existing public safety voice radio infrastructure, 911 Communications Center radio equipment, and other County departments utilizing voice radio equipment. Each public safety agency will be responsible for their respective analog to digital conversion costs of their field

radio equipment. Although federal funding is not available for "narrow-banding" radio infrastructure reimbursements, an Assistance to Firefighters grant application is pending in an effort to assist Rock County fire/EMS agencies with the cost of their radio field equipment.

A significant amount of the existing public safety radio infrastructure can be modified to operate in digital mode with the purchase of specialized Internet Protocol equipment offered by the vendor RAYTHEON. RAYTHEON would be the sole source equipment vendor. Other non-specialized equipment can be purchased off of the State of Wisconsin WSCSA contract. The licensed RAYTHEON dealer in our area is General Communications, Inc., of Madison, WI. General Communications has been the Rock County public safety infrastructure maintenance vendor for the last seventeen years.

Funding to complete the analog to digital conversion project is currently available in the 2011-2012 Rock County budget.