

LEWISTON/AUBURN 9-1-1 COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2015
Time: 0800
Location: LEWISTON/AUBURN 9-1-1, 552 Minot Avenue Auburn, Maine 04210

1. ROLL CALL:

- A. Present: Chief Paul LeClair, Chief Frank Roma, Deputy Chief Brian O'Malley, Finance Director Heather Hunter, Pat Mador, Esq.
- B. Staff: Director Phyllis Gamache, Systems Manager Drew McKinley, Secretary Kristal Goff
- C. Absent: Chief Michael Bussiere, Councilor Donald D'Auteuil, Chief Phil Crowell, Dr. Tammie Willoughby, Councilor Leroy Walker

2. OPEN SESSION:

- A. Meeting called to order at 08:00 a.m.
 - i. Motion made by Ms. Mador, Esq. to approve the minutes from October 15, 2015.
 - ii. Seconded by Chief Roma.
 - iii. Motion passes.
- B. *RFP Discussion*
 - i. TUSA did their site visit last week. Jack Hart read through all the surveys submitted by each department, he completed site surveys with Drew and held to presentations (one to appointees and one to the Chiefs) to discuss his findings.
 - ii. *Findings*
 - 1. The Gracelawn site in Auburn is too far north of the city to provide signal saturation throughout the whole city.
 - 2. The Goff Hill site was a mess which explains the move to Gracelawn.
 - a. A couple FCC licenses appears to still be licensed at the Goff site rather than Gracelawn.
 - 3. The Water Treatment Facility is not a good site as it is not above the tree line.
 - 4. Lewiston City Hall isn't a good site in its current condition with the metal sheeting.
 - iii. *Recommends*
 - 1. Move Gracelawn to another location and add a third receiver site in Lewiston. Those are priority moves and can be done in stages.
 - 2. Move to UHF 700 or 800 MHz. It has great building saturation and is forward compatible. Rumor is the FCC is going to require another narrow-banding. Most of the equipment that was recently purchased by different departments will not be compatible with new requirements. UHF will be more compatible with the state network and will require fewer mobiles (portables can be plugged into cruisers). Going this route would be a huge price tag if using Motorola - ~6 million for just the cost of the sites.

- a. We could continue with VHF but the building saturation issues we currently face would not improve. It is also unclear how functional it will be with future narrow-banding. It is still the most commonly implemented system in the State and it is cheaper.
- iv. *Direction from the Board*
 - 1. Chief LeClair would like to know what it would cost to maintain VHF – we should consider what our mutual aid and Androscoggin County is using.
 - 2. Deputy Chief O'Malley would like to know if improving the site locations would fix most of our issues.
 - a. Director Gamache responds that site fixes would correct issues.
 - 3. *Temporary issues that can be fixed*
 - a. Auburn Fire could switch to Lewiston TAC or UAS while at CMMC.
 - i. Chief LeClair states that CMMC building saturation issues have been fixed.
 - a. Director Gamache states the surveys didn't reflect that.
 - 4. Chief Roma comments that the money should be invested in a usable system for the future.
 - 5. Ms. Mador, Esq. would like to know if VHF and gradually phase in UHF.
 - a. Systems Manager McKinley states that really isn't possible.
 - 6. Deputy Chief O'Malley is concerned about replacing \$300k worth of brand new portables.
 - 7. Chief LeClair recommends pursuing an RFP that would reflect the costs of maintaining the current system versus switching to UHF.
 - 8. Finance Director Hunter suggest creating one RFP with multiple bidding options and a caveat that different vendors can bid on certain aspects of the project (subcontracting) and then a caveat on which vendors must be the same for certain functions. This can be a phase in approach. We can create our own pricing sheet that they fill in to make it easier to compare costs. It should be noted that each phase will be selected based on price and meeting specs. Also, see what they can offer for trade-ins of old equipment.
 - a. Director Gamache asks for guidance on earmarking funds.
 - i. Finance Director Hunter suggests a phase-in, go with the most expensive price or an option A, B and C. Separate LCIPs for radios and tower site changes.

C. CIP

- i. *Radio*
 - 1. Submitted 2.5 million in FY17
 - a. Finance Director Hunter states that we should it with incremental drawdowns – one million for FY17, two million for FY18 and FY19.
 - i. Search the internet for tower site bids
 - ii. Look at land owned by the cities.
 - 2. Motion to approve CIP by Finance Director Hunter.
 - 3. Seconded by Deputy Chief O'Malley.
 - 4. Motion Passes.

D. *Public Comment*

- i. Chief LeClair states that agreement needs to be made on what needs to be done first – consoles or tower.
- ii. Next meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2015. Chief LeClair is hoping for a draft of the RFP.

E.

- 1. Adjournment at 08:46 a.m.