

## LA2015-004 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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1. Page 3 – second paragraph - two phases are described for the project. “Phased implementation of new equipment and capabilities” is listed prior to the “...preparation of a request for proposal...”, and the “analysis of proposals”. Should this task be listed last? Is it expected that the selected consultant would be supporting the implementation of the selected new radio system? Please clarify.

“Phased implementation of new equipment and capabilities” should be considered part of the needs analysis and should not be listed last.

“It should not be assumed that the selected consultant will be supporting the implementation of the selected radio system.

2. Page 3 – under “Tasks and Deliverables of the Consultant”, #4, “An examination of current communications modalities”. The word “modalities” is used several times in the RFP. Please clarify.

The term modalities refer to the various equipment and technologies currently used by the center and the agencies the center serves.

3. Page 5 – under “Proposal Format” –the requirements in Items C and D as related to the radio system project are unclear. Please clarify.

Item C: How does the vendor propose to analyze the existing system, identify needs, propose solutions and incorporate those recommendations into the RFP for the new system build out.

Item D: Show projects the firm had completed of similar size, scope and needs.

4. Page 6 – Under “Selection Process”, Item C assesses the “ability to meet deadlines as described in this RFP”. Aside from the requirement to conduct the signal saturation test prior to loss of foliage, there does not appear to be any other “deadline” indicated. Please clarify.

That is the only deadline on the project.

5. The RFP refers to all existing public safety departments: “existing VHF radio infrastructure that connects all public safety departments in the Lewiston-Auburn area. “, however it is not specifically specified as to which ones they are. Please specifically list all those public safety departments which are to be part of this project C.

This information is available in a power point presentation. Vendors should email **Kristal Goff** at [911admin@auburnmaine.gov](mailto:911admin@auburnmaine.gov) to obtain a copy of the power point presentation.

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6. Reference is made to performing the existing radio coverage situation and the desire to have this completed before the leaves fall off the trees. Please supply the date desired for completion rather than an arbitrary situational characteristic, as weather and climate factors are not that precisely predictable nor consistent.

Because it is nearly impossible to predict when deciduous trees will go dormant for the winter, vendors should monitor autumn conditions for the Lewiston-Auburn area to ensure they meet the time requirements of the RFP.

7. The RFP indicates that up to three (3) firms may be called upon for further review and evaluation of their capabilities for being selected for this project. Please indicate if this review will take place simultaneously, that is all three being questioned and evaluated in one meeting, or if three separate meetings will take place.

Any required interviews will be conducted individually.

8. In "Proposal Format" item C; recommendations are called for and the task of "perform retrofits" is requested. Please clarify if this request is limited to the present configuration and scope of the project or if it must include the unknown scope, complexity, equipment, and duration as determined by the selected vendor upgrade proposal, which is post-RFP issuance.

This request is not limited to present configuration and scope.

9. In "Proposal Format" item E, it is stated that "*Should we move into the second phase with your organization, demonstrate your ability to perform the radio signal saturation study.*" is confusing compared to the prior description of two phases, the first of which includes the 'radio saturation study'. The term "saturation" is a term not used in radio propagation. Please define or explain what you are requiring. Please clarify this item E. Are you requesting a RSSI or CM test or combination of both?

Vendors are asked to submit their best proposal to address existing gaps in signal coverage.

10. In "Proposal Format" item H it is stated that a chart is required showing relationships, roles & responsibilities and requests 'the Client' be also included. Please be specific and describe the definition of "Client" in this item.

The term "Client" refers to the Lewiston-Auburn 9-1-1 Emergency Communications System.

11. In "Proposal Format", Item I states: "Employees of the winning bidder will be required to successfully pass a background screening that will include clearance through the FBI's National Crime Information Center and the Maine Criminal Justice Information Center." Please clarify who will pay for the investigative and clearance processing costs.

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The Lewiston-Auburn 9-1-1 Emergency Communications System will assume responsibility for screening employees through the FBI's National Crime Information Center and the Maine Criminal Justice Information Center.

12. Contract award states Friday, September 19, 2015. September 19 (2015) is a Saturday. Please clarify.

The contract award will be Friday, September 18, 2015. We apologize for the error

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### SITE VISIT Q & A

#### **Vendors in attendance at the site visit Wednesday, August 26, 2015:**

Normand Boucher of CDCG

Dennis Ward of TUSA Consulting

Bruce Marcus of Marcus Communications

Maria Fleet of Marcus Communications

#### **Others present:**

Phyllis Gamache, Director L/A 911

Drew McKinley, Systems Manager L/A 911

Matt Charest, IT Specialist L/A 911

Kristal Goff, HR/Office Manager L/A 911

Dave Cobb, Dirigo Wireless (Radio expert for L/A 911)

Norm Beauparlant, Lewiston Finance Department

Derek Boulanger, Auburn Facilities Manager

*Initials will be used below to indicate who posed questions and/or made comments.*

#### **Questions Posed During Site Visit:**

1) BM: Which sites are the primary transmit sites?

Response: Webber Ave Tower in Lewiston and Gracelawn Tower in Auburn.

2) BM: Am I looking at a duplexer in the Webber site photo?

Response: Yes, each site has a repeater for the police and fire department tactical channels.

3) BM: Landline or Wi-Fi?

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Response: We use carrier Ethernet for connectivity to the site with RAD IP Mux

4) BM: Montello Tower appears to be taller than 50 feet – is 50 feet accurate?

Response: Through discussion based on BM's expertise, the Montello Tower is a 100' foot tower.

5) BM: Is Montello Tower underground fed?

Response: There are suspended cables between the building and tower that can't be seen in the specific photo BM is referring to.

6) DW: Can antennae heights and types be provided?

Response: Yes, that information can be provided.

7) BM: Is there more than one antenna at the Bell Tower?

Response: No, this is a "receive only" site with eight receivers.

8) BM: Is Lewiston City Hall (Bell Tower site) a historical building?

Response: Yes.

9) BM: Are the screens surrounding the Bell Tower metal?

Response: Yes.

10) BM makes note that the Shredder Plant tower is closer an 80 – 100 foot tower.

Answer: BM was correct. It is a 100' Tower.

11) BM makes note that East Hardscrabble tower is a 29 foot tower.

Answer: BM was correct. It is a 29' Tower.

12) BM: Who does the scada belong to at the East Hardscrabble site receive only site?

Response: Belongs to Auburn Water Dept. Receive only site for Auburn.

13) DC notes that Goff Hill site has a historical building that can't be moved. There is a lot of great space at this site but little has been done to make use of it in the past.

14) BM: How much is LA 911's phone bill?

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Response: \$96k per year now that a telephone conversion project has been completed. No more copper lines.

15) Drew McKinley (911 Systems Manager) presents slide on Motorola Equipment. Dave from Dirigo Wireless makes note that Auburn Police Department uses a BDA since they're located in the basement of Auburn Hall.

16) BM: Are Lewiston and Auburn Fire Departments toned out at the same time?

Response: No.

17) BM: How many fire stations are there?

Response: Seven.

18) DW: Are you able to provide a breakdown of each piece of equipment you have (referring to Motorola pieces)?

Response: Yes.

19) DW: Do you have a timeline for when this project needs to be completed? When does foliage drop?

Response: Exact dates aren't possible, but it comes quickly. Work will need to start ASAP. The end of September will be cutting it close.

20) NB: What is the coverage area?

Response: 150 sq/mi. Lewiston is 1/3 the size of Auburn.

21) NB: What is the reliability of coverage?

Response: Currently greater than 70%. Lewiston has one more receive site than Auburn. Looking for a recommendation of key buildings or potential sites to approach representatives for space. WalMart Distribution Center, local hospitals, Tambrands are all large facilities that would be areas to consider.

22) NB: Are you looking for signal measurements in the entire coverage area?

Response: Yes. Continuous measurements in the entire coverage area. Comprehensive study.

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23) BM: To measure existing systems the current system will need to be interrupted. What the Center would really want is an engineering design and test the newly developed sites. Using the existing system is likely a waste of money.

24) DW: BM is correct, today's programs are very accurate and a drive and coverage tests will expose whether or not the system is operating properly.

25) DC: This is a 20 year old system and a drive test would provide really valuable information. Noise floors are currently an issue for the service area.

26) PG: Bids should be broken down by tasks.

27) NB: Would the cell towers that are going up all over the City be good indicators of possible site locations?

Response: Do we have space to lease on the commercial towers? That is something to look into.