
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



SHANNAN MOON
SHERIFF / CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 6, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shannan Moon, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) Trunked Radio Service Agreement with California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Public Safety Communications (Cal OES/PSC) that will allow the County of Nevada to join CRIS, lease public safety radio equipment at no cost to Cal OES/PSC and authorizes Cal OES/PSC to install and operate Nevada County public safety radio equipment at various site locations.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: No funding impact is anticipated, as the County of Nevada will receive credits related to the Motorola equipment purchased by the Sheriff's Office that will be applied to the Subscriber Fees, resulting in a net zero cost projected over the next 40 years.

BACKGROUND: In the Fall of 2022, the Sheriff's Office was approved for Congressionally Directed Funding for a Public Safety Radio Infrastructure Upgrade Project in the amount of \$4,800,000. The total Project cost at that time was estimated at approximately \$6,300,000. This Project will have 3 Phases, but only Phases 1 and 2 are funded with grant revenues.

Phase 1 of this Project consisted of replacing the Subscriber Radios - 78 vehicle radios, 96 handheld radios and associated equipment that is utilized by the Sheriff's Office for their field personnel's operational communication needs. Phase 1 is nearly complete, with mobile vehicle radio installations currently underway.

Phase 2 and 3 of the Project include installation of upgraded radio equipment at 9 tower locations throughout Nevada County as well as surrounding jurisdictions. Eight of the locations (Phase 2) have existing tower infrastructure, and so the only improvements to these sites are to install the radio equipment. See related item SR 24-1247 for approvals related to Phase 2 radio equipment purchase.

One additional site (Phase 3), where there is currently no existing tower or equipment vault, is currently being explored and has thus far received several preliminary approvals from the landowner. As this phase of the Project may extend beyond the term of the grant, it will be funded with Sheriff Rural Counties funding (Fund 1171). See related Board item SR 24-1248 for approvals related to the radio equipment for Phase 3 of the Project.

After significant due diligence, including a full inventory in 2023 of all county radio infrastructure assets, locations and coverage, the Sheriff's Office determined that the most cost-effective way of improving public safety radio communications throughout the county was to join the California Radio Interoperable System or CRIS being implemented by Cal OES/PSC. The state has been actively seeking local agencies to join in with their efforts to expand the coverage footprint of the CRIS system.

By partnering with the State, CRIS will become the primary radio system the NCSO will utilize for Land Mobile Radio (LMRS) communications. Not only will coverage be improved within the County, Nevada County users will be able to access communications anywhere in the State where CRIS provides coverage.

As part of this agreement, Nevada County will purchase the radio repeaters and associated equipment, which will be leased to Cal OES/PSC at no cost. Cal OES/PSC will be responsible for all installation, programming, configuration, and future maintenance of this equipment, for as long as Nevada County remains a member of CRIS. Cal OES/PSC will also be responsible for the purchase of any other needed equipment, such as microwave backhaul equipment, resulting in a significant cost savings to the County from what was originally anticipated.

Nevada County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for paying subscriber fees, based on the number of users. However, no cost is anticipated for approximately 40 years, as Cal OES/PSC will apply credits based on the value of the equipment purchased by Nevada County (\$3,092,384.00 for Phase 2 and 3) over the same period. The Agreement will automatically renew every five years, until terminated by either party. If terminated, all equipment will be returned to Nevada County, as Nevada County will retain ownership of the equipment as required by the Department of Justice grant terms.

Therefore, in order to improve public safety radio communications throughout Nevada County, it is recommended that the Board approve the CRIS Trunked Radio Service Agreement with Cal OES/PSC.

Initiated by: Robert Jakobs
Approved by: Shannan Moon