

AGENDA



Thursday, June 21, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 32**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing application for \$6,000,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to purchase radio system infrastructure and subscriber radio equipment to expand the Austin/Travis County Regional Radio System to the City of Lockhart and Caldwell, Bastrop, and Lee Counties.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Fiscal Year 2007 COPS Technology Program for the grant period of September 1, 2007 to August 30, 2009. A cash match of \$2 million is required and will be provided by the participating counties.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Pete Collins, Chief Information Officer/974-2344

Prior Council Action: November 17, 2005 acceptance of 2005 Interoperable Communications grant.

This grant will provide the City of Lockhart, and the counties of Caldwell, Bastrop, and Lee with radio communications equipment and technologies compatible with the existing Austin/Travis County Regional Radio System to increase data and voice interoperability among the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, and emergency management. This interoperable communications project is designed to upgrade the existing 800 MHz trunked radio infrastructures of the above named government entities, and then connect the systems to the existing Austin/Travis County Regional Radio System.

The Austin/Travis County Regional Radio System's multi-jurisdictional interoperability will be enhanced when these communication systems are connected to it. Grant funds will also be used to purchase peripheral equipment: consoles, back-up "control" stations, portable radios, and mobile radios for the participating entities. The project promotes the concept of improved "radio communication interoperability" among public safety and public service agencies in the participating jurisdictions. Approval to participate in this grant and provide the grant match funds from the governing bodies of the participating entities is expected prior to the June 29, 2007 grant application deadline. The City will not submit the COPS grant application for a named entity unless the entity provides a grant match letter and governing body approval documentation to the City. Upon the grant award to the City, each of the participating entities will be required to provide the required grant match amount that is a pro rata share of the cost of radio infrastructure and equipment for a total match amount of \$2,000,000.

The Austin Police Department and the Communications and Technology Management Department are working with these entities to develop a statement of work and a grant project plan to submit with the grant application. If the City is awarded the COPS grant, future Council approval to negotiate and execute interlocal agreements with the named entities for radio system implementation, maintenance, and operation will be needed.