

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA

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Thursday, August 10, 2006

 Back
  Print

**Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
ITEM No. 54

Subject: Authorize amendment of the agreement with Grande Communications for playback services for the public access channels for additional amount not to exceed \$42,330.24.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding will be available in the FY 2006-2007 proposed Cable Access Fund Budget.

Additional Backup Material
(click to open)
No Attachments Available

For More Information: Rondella Hawkins, Manager (512)974-2422

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Council Subcommittee.

Prior Council Action: May 25, 2006, by Resolution No. 20060525-051

City Council authorized the execution of an agreement with Grande Communications for playback services for the public access channels for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$98,770.56.

Playback services include the responsibility to provide 24-hour per day, 7 days per week audio/video feeds to each of the three public access channels and route the appropriate signals to the local cable television operators for distribution to cable tv subscribers.

The City is in the process of purchasing an automated playback and video archiving system so that our public access television contractor, Public Access Community Television (PACT), may assume responsibilities to provide playback services for each of the three public access channels.

The Communications and Technology Management (CTM) Office will be installing the playback equipment at the PACT facility. CTM is expanding the City's communications infrastructure at this City site as well. The planned upgrades will position the facility to be a major GAATN site and a hub for the City's wireless mesh network. The site is also being considered as a location for one of the City's satellite dishes which can be used for video-conferencing.

Additionally, there are significant facility modifications including air conditioning, electrical and re-cabling work that are underway that need to be completed before the equipment can be installed.

Staff is requesting approval of an additional three months for Grande to provide playback services for the three public access channels through November 30, 2006, in order to complete the facility modifications and communications technology upgrades before the change over to the new playback equipment.

Agreement summary:

Original agreement - City Council authorized the execution of a five-month agreement with Grande Communications for playback services for the public access channels with two, one-month extension options for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$98,770.56.

Amendment No. 1 - Administrative increase to add funding for additional 3 months of services in the amount of \$42,330.24