

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners      Date: 3-6-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

800 Mhz Radio Update

Requested Meeting Date: 3-12-13      Estimated Presentation Time: 10 minutes

Presenter: Scott Turner, Sheriff

**Type of Action Requested** (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion with possible action
- Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
- Approve/adopt proposal by motion
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute \_\_\_\_\_
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fiscal Impact** (check all that apply)

- Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (attach explanation)
- What type of expenditure is this?  Operating  Capital  Other (attach explanation)
- Revenue line account # that funds this item is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Expenditure line account # for this item is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Staffing Impact** (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

- Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected.  Yes  No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision.  Yes  No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy.  Yes  No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level.  Yes  No



**Supporting Attachment(s)**

- Memorandum Summary of Item
- Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
- Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
- Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
- Bid/quote comparison worksheet
- Draft County Board resolution
- Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
- Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.**

# SCOTT A. TURNER

## SHERIFF OF AITKIN COUNTY

217 Second Street NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

218-927-2138 Emergency 911  
Sheriff Fax 218-927-7359 / Dispatch Fax 218-927-6887

### MEMO

To: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Date: March 6, 2013

From: Sheriff Scott Turner

Re: Radio System Update/Radio Purchase

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Just as an FYI – as of the date of this memo I have learned that 80 of the 87 counties in the state of Minnesota have or are migrating to the ARMER system. A good number of them have had to undertake local enhancements to the state-built backbone to ensure adequate coverage. Many of them have also put a great deal more radios on the system than we have here in Aitkin County.

With that said, our plan at the outset indentified the need for 371 radios for all disciplines that were going to make the migration. We took some steps to reduce this number and have always looked for ways to keep the cost low. As of this date we have implemented 290 radios on the system.

The County Board made the decision at the outset to take a wait-and-see stance on the coverage in the Aitkin area before making a decision on a local enhancement site. That decision, coupled with radio board restrictions at the time, made the purchase of the radios for the jail somewhat premature. We now have an 800 MHz talk group that can be used in the jail and installed in the dispatch console. This will eliminate the need for having to install a repeater in the jail for radio coverage in the jail and courthouse complex. It will, in the long run, be a cost savings for the county.

We are in need of 15 portable radios for jail/STS/transport. The state bid price on those is listed below – per our purchase from a month ago. This would put our radio total at 305 – still well below the original amount that was identified.

XTS 1500 portable	\$1,344.00	15	\$20,160.00
Impres Charger 6-bank	\$ 591.00	1	\$ 591.00

The propagation maps that were produced by the State of Minnesota as well as our consultant, GeoComm, showed a decreased coverage in the Aitkin area. The in-building coverage that we are realizing is poor at best in and around the City of Aitkin. I will be looking for some direction as to how the Board wants to proceed to address this deficiency.