

Grant: FY 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program

Category: Investment in Equipment

Urban Area Security Initiative: Forest Preserves of Cook County

Project Title: Purchase of New Digital Portable Radios for Department of Law Enforcement

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1. Describe the capability gap(s) the project will be addressing.

Good communication is critical in nearly all industries but none more so than in law enforcement. The use of innovative communication technology enables police officers and other law enforcement officials to make quick and informed decisions based upon readily available evidence. The police radio is the main source of contact with dispatchers and other officers. The police radio is one of the most important tools and is the main lifeline in volatile or hostile situations.

Without effective radio communication between police officers, sergeants, supervisory personnel, and dispatchers a large gap would exist in most if not all the 32 core capabilities as set forth in FEMA's National Preparedness Goals would occur. Effective radio communication is an essential element in preventing a threatened or an actual act of terrorism.

Police radio communication is instantaneous and reliable. Phone numbers don't have to be dialed or messages typed in. Communications are not hampered by overloaded cell towers. Radio frequencies are protected from other users. Radios are simple and durable. These are all attributes necessary to help combat actual and potential acts of terrorism.

The Department of Law Enforcement has approximately 135 radios currently in use by its officers, sergeants, and command staff. The radios currently in use are the Motorola APX7000 model. These radios allow communications between officers, sergeants, command personnel, and Cook County Sheriff's dispatchers. Unfortunately, these APX7000 models have an expected end-of-life date at the end of 2023. Thus, Motorola will no longer be marketing, selling, updating nor fixing APX7000 models after 2023.

The Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County is responsible for upholding and enforcing all State, County and District laws and ordinances to serve and protect citizens visiting the Forest Preserves of Cook County and protect the property and natural lands of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The Department of Law Enforcement operates on a 24-hour, 365-day basis and is privileged with protecting more than 70,000 acres of natural lands, 691 buildings and structures, employees, and the many Forest Preserves of Cook County patrons and visitors. Since 1981, Department of Law Enforcement officers have been vested with the same lawful authority granted to police officers from other police agencies across the State of Illinois, but they have also been tasked with a rather unique dual role. The Department of Law Enforcement officers perform a stewardship role by helping to preserve and protect the natural habitat, and simultaneously, perform their primary role as police officers through providing protection for persons and property located on or about forest preserve lands. The Law Enforcement Department has about 135 full-time positions.

The Department of Law Enforcement officers have also been tasked with performing security checks on certain forest preserve properties which the Department of Homeland Security deemed a potential terrorist risk.

As the Motorola APX7000 radios come to their expected end of life and without ways to repair and replace them effective radio communications among the department members would disappear. A very large gap would exist in the Department of Law Enforcement's abilities to carry out their mission, assigned tasks and their ability to meet many of the 32 core capabilities as described by FEMA's National Preparedness Goals.

As our current fleet of Motorola APX7000 radios are very close to their end-of-life cycle, the need to replace these radios with newer Motorola APEX6000 model radios is critical. Attached hereto is a four-page description of the Motorola APX6000. Despite being a 6000 series, the 6000 series is an updated version of the APX7000 model.

2. Describe the proposed project, how it will build or sustain the above identified core capabilities, the end goal of the project, success measures and the intended impact of the project.

New Motorola APX6000 radios will allow all sworn officers of the Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County to continue to effectively communicate with each other and Cook County Sheriff's dispatchers. Successful communications between all officers, sergeants, and command personnel on duty will lead to continuing our goal of achieving the 32 core capabilities as described by FEMA's National Preparedness Goals.

The initial goal as stated in the 32 core capabilities is best achieved through effective communications, which includes effective operating mobile radios. Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operation Coordination, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, and Screening, and Search and Detection can only be achieved with officers being able to speak to and communicate with each other, securely and quickly.

The goals outlined in the core capabilities of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery focus on Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operation Coordination, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Mass Search and Rescue Operations, On-Scene Security, Protection and Law Enforcement and many of the goals all require effective radio communication between law enforcement and other first responders.

Law Enforcement personnel in the field need effective working radios to properly coordinate operations and communicate operationally. Reliable radio communications between officers exponentially increases situational awareness. Should a terrorist incident occur or even a suspected terrorist incident arise working radios allow communications with Cook County Sheriff's dispatchers to provide information and warnings to the public should the need be there.

With the over 70,000 acres of natural lands upon which the Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County has jurisdiction, the terrain provides unique challenges which radios are essential to overcome. Search and rescue operations have been undertaken in deep forests and upon our lakes and rivers, searches which have been assisted by both the Cook County Department of

Homeland Security and the Cook County Sheriff. In these operations, the need to share information and coordinate operations through radio communications is essential.

3. Explain the project's connection to prevent acts of terrorism.

Helping prevent terrorism is a goal of the Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. To effectively combat terrorism our department needs to communicate securely, effortlessly, and reliably through officer issued radios. Towards that end, we need to replace our Motorola APX7000 radios.

As stated above, in addition to our usual law enforcement functions, the Department of Law Enforcement officers have also been tasked with performing security checks on certain forest preserve properties which the Department of Homeland Security deemed a potential terrorist risk. In the event an incident were to arise during one of our security checks, immediate communications between our officers and Cook County Sheriff's dispatchers would be needed to address this incident.

"If You See Something, Say Something" is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the signs of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, and how to report suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement needs effective radio communication to "say something when they see something."

4. Provide a budget breakdown off all allowable costs. Where applicable, please provide a list of equipment to be purchased including quantities and costs.

Replacing our entire fleet of APX7000 radios with 135 APX6000 radios in one purchase would cost the sum of \$698,868.00. Please see attached Motorola Quote # 2250702.

Replacing only half of our fleet of APX7000 with 68 new APX6000 radios would cost the sum of \$353,022.40. Please see attached Motorola Quote # 2250729.

Replacing only one quarter of our fleet of APX7000 radios with 34 APX6000 radios would cost the sum of \$176,011.20. Please see attached Motorola Quote # 2250735.

If the Department of Law Enforcement receives funding which allows us to purchase less than the necessary 135 new APX6000 radios, the critical and time sensitive need to replace all the older APX7000 models will still exist.

By purchasing these specific APX6000 model radios through Motorola a significant cost savings will occur. Motorola model APX6000 radios use the same batteries and battery chargers as our existing Motorola model APX7000 radios.

Additionally, Motorola APX6000 series radios will provide a seamless transition with our communications as the APX6000 radios will work with existing Motorola APX7000 radios, until those stop working, and will allow us to continue to communicate with Cook County Sheriff's radio dispatchers.

5. What, if any, existing funding is in place for the proposed project and how will a grant compliment or match your available funding?

We are not aware of any funding being in place for this project.

6. Is this a short-term (can be implemented immediately), medium-term (6-to-12-month completion) or long-term project?

This project can be implemented immediately upon receipt of the radios from Motorola.

7. Is there an existing contract in place to procure items necessary to complete your project? If not, what is the procurement process in place to obtain good or services?

There is a Contract for Supplies, Document No. 1912-18028 (Purchase Order No. 70000153568) Motorola Radios, Parts, and Equipment for Cook County Sheriff's Office currently in place. The Forest Preserves of Cook County would use this contract and enter into a Piggy-Back Agreement with Motorola so that the Forest Preserves receives the same products and prices as set forth in the existing agreement. The Forest Preserves has used this contract previously and may be able to extend the life of the previous piggy-back agreement between the parties.

8. What plans or funding exist to sustain the project once the grant funds are exhausted?

New radios might require maintenance and battery replacement during the life of the radios. Sums for those amounts would be paid for the operational budget of the Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

9. Is there anything else you need to tell us about the project?

Police departments such as the Department of Law Enforcement rely on quick, efficient communication to run smoothly and combat terrorism. Radios are essential for officers in the field, whether it's getting an update on an active situation or calling for backup, the men and woman who protect and serve the Forest Preserves of Cook County need an easy, reliable way to get in through to the right people. With their lightweight design, durability and convenient range, Motorola APX6000 radios are the perfect companion for police officers in the field and in the forest preserves of Cook County.

Effective in the field communication using reliable radios will allow all sworn officers of the Department of Law Enforcement for the Forest Preserves of Cook County to continue to effectively communicate. Successful communications between all officers, sergeants, and command personal on duty will lead to continuing our goal of achieving the 32 core capabilities as described by FEMA's National Preparedness Goals.