



NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

August 13, 2019
Agenda Item No. 12

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jon Lewis, Chief of Police - 949-644-3701, jlewis@nbpd.org

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TITLE: Replacement of the Outdoor Warning System

ABSTRACT:

The Police Department is requesting City Council approval to purchase and install a new outdoor warning system through Omnia Partners, Public Sector (formerly U.S. Communities) a nonprofit government purchasing cooperative program, under Master Contract 4400008495 with Mallory Safety and Supply, LLC. The current system uses mechanical sirens that have not proven durable in the coastal environment, are not fully functional and need significant repairs or replacement. The requested system, manufactured by Long Range Acoustic Devices® (LRAD) Corporation, has no moving parts, provides several important operational improvements, and is supported by technicians and spare parts located in the Southern California region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly;
- b) Approve a Purchase and Installation Agreement with Mallory Safety & Supply, LLC for the purchase and installation of an LRAD Corporation outdoor warning system equipment for a not to exceed amount of \$200,534.71 plus a contingency amount of \$20,000 (approximately 10%) to cover unforeseen costs, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$220,534.71, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement; and
- c) Approve Budget Amendment No. 20-006-CC appropriating \$220,534.71 from the unappropriated General Fund capital project savings to Account No. 01201928-980000-20M15.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

The Budget Amendment appropriates \$220,534.71 in increased expenditure appropriations from the unappropriated General Fund capital project savings. Funding for ongoing maintenance in subsequent fiscal years will be addressed during the annual budget preparation process.

DISCUSSION:

In 2010, the City purchased an outdoor warning siren system to notify community members of approaching tsunamis or other types of natural disasters where notifications from public safety are critical. Three mechanical sirens were installed at The Wedge, Marina Park and in West Newport, sites that are low-lying, vulnerable areas of the City where evacuations could be difficult during a disaster. When activated from the Police Station, the system sounds very loud "air raid" type sirens to get community members' attention so they will turn on their radio or television to seek further information. The sirens are tested at a lower decibel level the first Friday of each month at noon.

Staff have been monitoring successful monthly low power tests of the siren system, but when a full power test was conducted, it was discovered the system is not fully operational. Staff then utilized the City's contracted acoustic specialist to conduct a full test of the system and determine if it was performing according to design specifications. During the test, only one of the sirens was operating at its full functional capability. We then worked with the siren vendor, American Signal Corporation (ASC) based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to evaluate and repair the system. They visited each site, but were unable to make repairs and determined two of the sirens needed to be replaced. This is due to mechanical parts in the sirens corroding in the coastal environment. ASC provided a quote to replace the sirens and restore the system to full operation.

During that time, staff also researched other vendors and reached out to neighboring coastal cities to determine if there are better, more modern outdoor warning notification systems and sirens that are supported locally. After a thorough evaluation of the market, staff recommends the purchase of an LRAD Corporation system. LRAD Corporation is the only west coast emergency notification siren/speaker vendor, and reasonable technician response is required to maintain the system. A key improvement over the existing system is voice command capabilities. The new system will consist of three horn/speaker arrays at the same locations as the current system, using existing electrical power and pole structures.

Staff determined that it would be more economical and efficient to select a contractor using a cooperative government purchasing agreement. Omnia Partners, Public Sector (Omnia) is the largest nonprofit purchasing organization for public sector procurement. Omnia was formed through the merger of two of the nation's leading cooperative purchasing organizations, National IPA and U.S. Communities. Public agencies competitively solicit bids and contracts for goods and services that Omnia makes available to agencies nationwide. Agencies benefit from the reduced pricing made possible by such large volume national contracts. The City has successfully used this type of purchasing mechanism in the past for several products and services purchases.

Mallory Safety & Supply, LLC (Mallory) was awarded Contract 400004895 following a competitive solicitation by Fairfax County, Virginia for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Equipment and related services under U.S. Communities.

Using this master contract, staff obtained a quote for the purchase and installation of new LRAD Corporation outdoor warning system equipment. Mallory will remove the existing equipment at each site and install the new system. A one-year maintenance/inspection period, effective from the commissioning date, and a one-year standard warranty will be provided by LRAD Corporation.

During a disaster, public safety officials can sound the siren and then give voice commands over the speaker system instructing community members on exactly what to do, and they do not have to turn to other media outlets to provide that information. In addition, LRAD is working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and in the future will be extending their notification capabilities that will also utilize the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) technology and others.

The cities of Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach have LRAD equipment and future joint activation to streamline information is possible. Staff contacted neighboring agencies who provided the LRAD Corporation with excellent reviews.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Purchase, Installation and Maintenance Agreement with Mallory Safety & Supply LLC
- Attachment B – Quote from Mallory Safety & Supply LLC
- Attachment C – Budget Amendment