



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 10
For Meeting of 04/21/16

ITEM TITLE: State Public Safety Radio System - Update

CONTACT PERSON(S): Greg Staples, Chief of Police

SUMMARY EXPLANATION

The State of Iowa has contracted with Motorola to build a statewide public safety radio system. As a part of this project, Motorola has requested to use the radio core from Westcom and use the Westcom infrastructure to build the first phase of the system. When complete, the state radio system will provide triple redundancy statewide and will allow users to communicate with their home dispatchers regardless of where the unit is currently located within the state.

Some direct benefits to the Westcom agencies could be realized in the area of increased battery backup to the radio towers /antennas, increased functionality of the radios currently in use and a significant savings in annual software / hardware maintenance fees. Potential areas of concern for the Westcom agencies are future costs and control over the radio core and radio channels.

Westcom managers and the management committee (the police and fire chiefs from the five Westcom agencies) are currently working on MOU's with the State of Iowa and Motorola to spell out agreements that will protect our long term interests of radio operability and future costs. If the State and Motorola agree to sufficiently protect our interests through signed documents, the Westcom managers plan to hold information sessions to inform Council about the opportunity.

The purpose of this item is simply to advise Council of important information about our public safety radio communication system and to inform you that in the coming weeks there may be information sessions about this topic that we will be invited to.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: No action required at this time