





# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:**  David N. Carmany, City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Espinosa, Fire Chief   
Bruce Moe, Finance Director  
Ken Shuck, Battalion Chief   
Gwen Eng, General Services Manager

**DATE:** February 21, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Grant Funded Purchase of Dual-Band Radios from Motorola Solutions in the Amount of \$228,000

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing); b) authorize the purchase of dual-band radios from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$228,000; and c) appropriate \$228,000 from the General Fund which will be fully reimbursed at a later date by grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

These are not budgeted items; however, the purchase will be fully reimbursed by DHS. In addition, the City must first purchase the state-approved items and then submit a request for reimbursement. As a result, an appropriation of \$228,000 from the General Fund is needed. There is no City matching fund requirement.

### BACKGROUND:

The City of Manhattan Beach was awarded additional funding from the 2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) in the amount of \$228,000 specifically for the purchase of dual-band portable radios. Funding goes to state and local governments to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters (this includes funding for equipment, training and interoperable community projects). The City of Manhattan Beach has received funding from SHSGP every year since 2001.

The Fire Department (MBFD) requested grant funding to purchase 32 dual-band portable radios with related hardware and software to enhance communications interoperability with adjoining regional forces. MBFD has automatic and mutual aid agreements with surrounding agencies including Los Angeles County Lifeguards; and Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Torrance and Los Angeles County fire departments, which operate on different bandwidths of the radio

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frequency spectrum; ultra-high frequency (UHF) and very high frequency (VHF). Currently, MBFD assigns a UHF radio to each member of the department allowing for communications during emergency and non-emergency department activities. However, in the instance of a multi-agency incident with a regional response, communications between MBFD personnel and departments operating on the VHF bandwidth are limited to the use of a fire engine-mounted VHF radio and a single VHF portable radio available to the Fire Captain. Upgrading to dual-band radios would allow for direct inter-agency communication between MBFD personnel and other agencies, significantly increasing firefighter effectiveness and safety. In addition, the upgrade to dual-band radios will allow MBFD to comply with the Los Angeles County Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies Radio Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TICP) using one portable radio solution.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff reviewed equipment and pricing offered by several multi-band radio vendors. Ultimately, Motorola was selected for this requirement. MBFD currently has the capability to communicate with local agencies, however, in a widespread incident, communications with other police and fire agencies outside our area would be problematic. Therefore, having radios capable of interoperability with the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS), which uses a Motorola Proprietary Trunking technology, was a key reason for procuring from this manufacturer. Motorola also offered the lowest pricing.

Motorola Solutions offered MBFD discounted pricing based on the Los Angeles County and Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) contracts; no deeper discounts are available. Therefore, competitive bidding would not result in better pricing. Staff recommends that the City Council waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.150 (cooperative purchasing) and approve the purchase from Motorola Solutions. If approved, the radios will arrive in 4-6 weeks.