

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/21/21

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 21-0696

LOG NAME: 04US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COMM SYSTEM AGREEMENT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Communications System Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security for Participation in the City of Fort Worth's Public Safety Radio System for Interoperable Communications in Mutual Aid or Other Multi-Agency Operations at No Cost to the City of Fort Worth

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of a communications system agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security for participation in the City of Fort Worth's Public Safety Radio System for interoperable communications in situations involving mutual aid or other multi-agency operations.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Fort Worth operates a public safety radio system called the North Texas Interoperable Radio Network (NTIRN). The implementation of the radio system included the development of a comprehensive interoperable communications plan for first responders from multiple agencies.

Participation in the plan is open not only to agencies that use NTIRN as their primary communications system, but also to other mutual aid partners, such as the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), who own and maintain their own radio systems for their daily operations but require the ability to communicate with other agencies in mutual aid situations or other multi-agency operations.

The plan provides a common group of communications channels that first responders in Tarrant, Johnson, Dallas, Denton, Parker, and Ellis counties may access when multiple agencies respond to a single incident. These channels are used only for communications with other agencies during joint operations. They are not used for an agency's day-to-day operations. These channels are accessible to the users of any radio system connected to the NTIRN. More than 160 agencies are able to communicate with one another via these common channels.

In August 2021, DHS approved a communications system agreement with the City of Fort Worth to operate on the interoperable communications channels when required for mutual aid operations only. The DHS will not utilize NTIRN for daily operations, but only when required to communicate with public safety agencies in Fort Worth or other agencies using NTIRN during joint operations.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: US Department of Homeland Security

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation this action will have no material effect on City funds.

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