



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – December 5, 2018 Agenda Item 7

Voting Session

Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of a Dispatch Console

Recommended Council Action

Approve the ordinance

Context with Key Issues

The Police Department's dispatch console is over 10 years old and is in need of replacement. At over 10 years old it has surpassed its useful life and we have had to invest in repairing it. All of the computers associated with the console are out of date and running operating systems that are no longer supported. In addition, the County is upgrading their entire radio network, and our current console is not compatible with the new network.

The recommended system is the Motorola 7500e, which is one of two models used in the County by other agencies. This system will provide us greater flexibility in our operations in a number of ways. Dispatch transmissions have priority, meaning they can interrupt field transmissions. Also, they can merge talk groups during a critical incident and bring in outside units into our talk group.

The 7500e is tied directly back to the County network through fiber lines. This means that when we transmit, our broadcast goes out over the fiber to the County towers and is then broadcast. This will ensure better quality transmissions and no need to maintain the radios. With the console tied directly into the County network, our dispatcher will get radio identifiers and automatically know which officer is transmitting.

The console will tie directly into the new Motorola P1 Computer Aided Dispatch system allowing personnel to operate it within a single interface and from one mouse and keyboard to receive 9-1-1 calls, manage an incident response, and communicate critical information to officers in the field. In addition, the system is portable, meaning once we install the server system, we can access it from anywhere that we have an IP connection. One of our biggest weaknesses in the Dispatch Division is in not having a secondary site in the city. The system will allow us to move and operate from almost any location. This would be a benefit during construction or emergency activities when the dispatchers may need to relocate.

Purchase of Motorola equipment does not violate the Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Zone Act as it once did.

Funds for replacement of the dispatch console are in the FY19 Speed Camera Capital Expenditures Fund. In the FY19 Capital Budget, the line item for this purchase is listed as "field radio equipment" for \$59,000. The unit we had originally priced and for which we included funds in the budget would not have been mobile and could not have been moved once installed. With the upcoming Atrium construction, and after evaluating several options, it was decided that the best approach would be to upgrade to a mobile field dispatch console. This unit would offset upgrade costs when the new radio system is brought online. The cost of the new field dispatch console is \$109,417.46, about \$50,000 more than what was budgeted. To offset the additional cost, the Police Department proposes not to purchase the mobile traffic trailer (\$33,000) and the purchase of some MDTs (\$15,000). The remaining \$2,000 can be absorbed in the Speed Camera Fund Budget.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All
Engaged, Responsive, & Service-Oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

We do not believe there are significant environmental considerations related to this purchase.

Fiscal Considerations

The total cost of the proposed purchase is \$109,417.46. The purchase would be made from the FY19 Speed Camera Capital Expenditures Fund.

Racial Equity Considerations

A new Dispatch Console will not disproportionately impact any particular group.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Dispatch Console

Introduced by:

Single Reading Ordinance

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-**

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE NEW DISPATCH CONSOLE

WHEREAS, the Police Department needs to replace their dispatch console; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2019 Speed Camera Capital Expenditures budget includes funds that will be used for the purchase; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department proposes to contract with Motorola at a cost of \$109,417.46 to replace the Dispatch Console; and,

WHEREAS, the quoted price is based on a competitively bid Montgomery County contract with Motorola Solutions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager or her designee is authorized to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions for the purchase and installation of a new Dispatch Console.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2018 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: