



DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town
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November 9, 2011

TO: Dumfries Town Council

FROM: Robert E. Forker, Jr.
Chief of Police

THRU: Daniel E. Taber
Town Manager

RE: Police Department Radios

I **Current Situation** is as follows:

- A. The Prince William County Government will be refreshing its 800 MHz system in the immediate future. This system is approaching the end of its life cycle and Motorola (the system's manufacturer) will soon cease its support for the system. As a result, Prince William County will be replacing their radio system.

In 2003, the Dumfries Police Department upgraded its radio system to the Motorola 800 MHz radio "XTL5000" and the "Astro Digital Console." This allowed the Police Department to communicate with the Prince William County Police Department and receive dispatches from the Communications Center regarding calls for service from our citizens.

Motorola ended production of the "Astro Spectra Plus" radio in July 2004. Motorola typically supports subscriber radios for 5 years after production. In this case, Motorola has exceeded its usual support, but has announced it will cease support in 2013.

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In order for the Dumfries Police Department to continue using the 800 MHz system and receive calls for service from the dispatcher, or communicate with other agencies, we will need to upgrade our current radios. Although, Prince William County has not announced the exact date they will upgrade their radio system, it is expected late 2012. A review of the radios currently in inventory shows two radios will need to be replaced and the remaining radios can be “refreshed” or “reprogrammed.” This issue was discussed during the FY 2012 Budget deliberations and Council opted to delay funding until FY 2013.

I have been in contact with both Prince William County Police Department and the Motorola vendor. I have learned that discounts are provided for agencies that purchase large numbers of radios or have them reconfigured. Since the number of radios in the Dumfries inventory does not qualify for a discount, I reached out to the Prince William County Police Department. I learned they have placed their final large order and do not anticipate making an additional large purchase.

I have learned that Stafford County will be making a large purchase of radios within a short period time and we may “piggy back” their contract. I have learned if we act immediately, we will receive a 20% discount on an approximate \$36,000 purchase.

II Issues in order of importance are:

- A. Policy Impact – The Police Department is dependent upon the Prince William County Public Safety Communications Center to receive, process and dispatch both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. By not upgrading the current radio system Dumfries will be unable to receive radio communications from the Dispatch Center. In addition, Dumfries officers would not be able to communicate directly with other jurisdictions whether it is in an emergency or routine.
- B. Fiscal Impact – Replacing two radios and upgrading the remaining twenty-two (22) radios will cost \$29,970.73.

Prince William County is expected to upgrade its radio system by the end of 2012. Prince William County, to include the Police Department, Sheriff's Department and Adult Detention Center has either purchased new radios or upgraded existing radios. Stafford County Sheriff's Office is currently making a large purchase and by "piggy backing" their contract Dumfries can save 20% or approximately \$6,000.

- C. Timing – The most cost effective method is to address this issue as soon as possible.

III. Current Alternatives – in order of feasibility are:

- A. Authorize the Town Manager to purchase two new radios and upgrade the remaining inventory.
 - 1. Policy Impact – By upgrading the current radios the Police Department will continue to have the ability to communicate with the Public Safety Communications Dispatchers and other Police Departments and its officers.
 - 2. Fiscal Impact – By transferring \$20,898.73 from vacant salary positions and transferring it to the \$9,072 remaining in the Capital Improvement Projects budget line, there would be no need to identify additional revenue sources.
 - 3. Timing – In order to receive the full 20% discount, Motorola is requesting a signed contract as soon as possible.
- B. – Do not authorize the Town Manager to purchase two new radios and upgrade the remaining inventory.
 - 1. Policy Impact – By not upgrading the current radios the Police Department will not have the ability to communicate with the Public Safety Communications Dispatchers and other Police Departments and its officers.

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2. Fiscal Impact – By waiting until the FY 2013 budget to purchase this equipment the Town will not receive a 20% discount and be forced to pay the full cost.
3. Timing – Failure to purchase this equipment this year will result in the additional monies being spent in the FY 2013 budget.

IV. Recommendation is that the Town Council concurs with Alternative A and authorizes the Town Manager to purchase these radio upgrades.