



MASON J. POOLER
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF



CITY of WEST ALLIS
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Date: June 12, 2017

To: Honorable Board of West Allis Police & Fire Commissioners

From: Interim Fire Chief Mason J. Pooler

Re: Request for Approval: Expenditure of budgeted funds to purchase fire station alerting system

Honorable Commissioners,

I respectfully request your authorization to expend budgeted funding in the amount not to exceed of \$180,000.00 to complete the purchase of a fire station alerting system.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets call processing time standards for fire dispatch centers. We currently have a performance measure in place for dispatchers to process fire and emergency service calls in 90 seconds or less. We also have a performance measure in place for all charlie, delta, and echo level EMS calls to be processed in 120 seconds or less. Currently, the dispatch center struggles to meet these performance measures every month (we have yet to meet either benchmark in 2017.)

A station alerting system will increase dispatcher performance. Under the current practice, a dispatcher must often make a decision between staying on the line with a caller or putting the caller on hold in order to use the radio to send fire apparatus to the scene. A modern station alerting system will utilize a computer generated voice that will alert the fire stations of the 9-1-1 call, allowing the dispatcher to remain on the line with the caller. This will increase patient care by allowing dispatcher to keep callers call, to gather further information, and to issue pre-arrival instructions to medical patients and also will improve call processing time by getting fire apparatus on the road quicker.

This style of station alerting system has become the industry standard. Many area cities utilize such systems with success. Neighboring communities that use such systems include North Shore, Wauwatosa, and Oak Creek.

There are several brands of station alerting systems on the market. The West Allis Fire Department would like to propose to purchase a system built by U.S. Digital Designs. This system is the same brand used by Wauwatosa and is also currently being installed in the city of Greenfield. As part of the purchase, an interface between our current CAD vendor and the US Digital system must be built. By using the same system as our neighboring communities (who we already share a CAD vendor with,) it will allow for time and cost savings as the CAD vendor has already designed and implemented an interface similar to the one that we will need. U.S. Digital Designs is one of the most widely used station alerting systems in the fire service. The other two are Purvis and

Locution. Early conversations with each company indicated that similar systems from either of these companies would exceed \$200,000.00.

To purchase the system and ensure both the best possible pricing and strict adherence to West Allis Fire Department design requirements, we have decided to utilize a purchasing known as National Purchasing Partners (NPPGov). This consortium provides pre-bid open book pricing on public service products and eliminates the need for an individual municipality to dedicate the time and staffing to writing a proprietary yet open bid specification for purchasing equipment. Use of NPPGov also prevents a municipality from having to defend its pre-determined requirements from manufacturers who wish to provide what they deem as substantively “comparable” options to specification requirements. This can lead to long drawn out bidding process where municipalities are essentially forced to accept brands or models of equipment or systems that they did not intend to purchase. The utilization of NPPGov for the purchase of complex, low volume, high dollar equipment such as a station alerting system will save the city money by reducing a significant amount of personnel hours that would need to be put into a traditional bidding process.

- The project involves three purchasing components:
- The “core” system, designed by U.S. Digital Designs at a quoted price of \$144,911.19: Price competitively bid through NPPGov purchasing consortium.
- Ancillary equipment, provided by Emergency Lighting & Electronics, LLC at a quoted price of \$19,131.84: Below the threshold needed for bidding, per departmental policy.
- A computer interface software program, designed to allow the station alerting system to function with the existing computer aided dispatch software program utilized by the West Allis Fire Department, provided by ProPhoenix Corporation, at a price of \$6,800.00: This is a proprietary program that only ProPhoneix can design.
- The project involves extensive I.T. related work in four city owned buildings of various ages. To accommodate any unforeseen issues, an additional \$9,156.97 is being asked for to cover costs not identified above.

Attached to this document is the NPPGov documentation for this proposed purchase. The decision to utilize the NPPGov consortium has been discussed with and approved by the City’s Purchasing and Finance Departments. A summary of the pricing data is also attached to this document

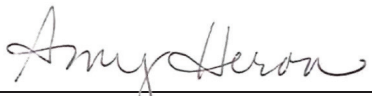
In conclusion, I respectfully request this honorable board’s permission to allow the City’s Purchasing Division to utilize the NPPGov purchasing consortium to complete the purchase of a U.S. Digital Designs: Phoenix G2 system and related equipment for a price not to exceed \$180,000.00.

Sincerely,



Mason Pooler
Interim Fire Chief

The West Allis Police and Fire Commission hereby provides approval for the West Allis Fire Department to proceed with their request to allow the City's Purchasing Division to utilize the NPPGov purchasing consortium to complete the purchase of a U.S. Digital Designs: Phoenix G2 system and related equipment for a price not to exceed \$180,000.00.

APPROVED BY: 
Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

DATE: June 15, 2017