



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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August 29, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$950,000 and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the purchase of a simulcast public safety radio infrastructure.

Further, I request that your Honorable Council authorize any premium received upon the sale of the bonds or notes, less the cost of preparing, issuing and marketing them, and any accrued interest received upon the delivery of the bonds or notes be applied to the costs of the project being financed by the bonds or notes and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by a like amount.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller".

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Greg Gentile
Chief

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

August 26, 2022

Maureen Lemieux
Chief Financial Officer
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Maureen,

I respectfully request to docket funding of \$951,649.50 for the Simulcast Radio System for Newton Police and Fire.

The funding is going to be used to improve our radio communication system throughout the city, which is shared between Police and Fire.

Thank you for your consideration to this request.

Respectfully,

Greg Gentile
Chief of Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gentile", is written over the typed name and title.



Gregory J. Gentile
Chief

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Mayor

Background for RFP #22-75 Simulcast Radio System for Police and Fire Departments to Applied Communications Services, ACSI.

Background

Since the inception of the Purple Team in 2016 (a combination of Police and Fire leadership, technology experts from both departments, and the executive office) one of the groups priorities has been to improve radio coverage throughout the city. In pursuit of this goal, the team has worked hard to lay the foundation by hardening all our communications sites to have backup generators, rehabilitated or built new buildings to house equipment, replaced antenna systems, and created redundant fiber optic network to connect it all together. These building blocks have all come together to prepare us for the next step: replace the equipment that plugs in to all these systems. This equipment, commonly referred to as the radio system by the police and fire departments, is long in need of replacement. The Fire system consists of two radio channels and runs on equipment purchased and installed in the late 2000's. The model of equipment is no longer supported or manufactured making replacing parts challenging. The Police system, also consisting of two radio channels, has some newer components, however, they will soon reach end of life and will only have support while supplies last.

To solve these challenges, the purple team worked with a consultant over the last year to develop a request for proposal (RFP). The RFP was designed to vendor agnostic and allow for a wide range of technology from a variety of manufacturers and vendors. The RFP's main goal was to bring both the Police and Fire system to a common operating level, giving both departments equal access to the best technology. It would allow for one vendor and one point of contact for problems experienced by both departments. The RFP also addresses one of the executive office's goals of improving coverage in the city's public-school buildings using a technology called simulcast. This technology allows the city to utilize multiple transmitters on each radio channel, allowing for significantly improved in building coverage in the schools and properties throughout the city. Put simply enough – we will be able to communicate clearer and better tomorrow than we can today with the new system proposed.



Gregory J. Gentile
Chief

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Through review of the three received RFP responses, the City has selected to move forward with Applied Communications Services, Inc. (ACSI) to build this new system and complete another Purple Team goal. To finalize the contract with ACSI, the Purple Team requests the approval of \$951,649.50 to build the Simulcast Land Mobile Radio System for Police and Fire.