



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATION OF UNALLOCATED GENERAL FUND RESERVES FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVEN IPADS, ACCESSORIES, AND SERVICE TO REPLACE MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS (MDCS) IN FIRE APPARATUS TO MEET THE CURRENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF THE DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Fire

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council adopt a resolution to appropriate unallocated General Fund reserves for the purchase of seven iPads, accessories and service to replace mobile data computers (MDCs) in Fire apparatus to meet the current operational needs of the dispatch communications system?

Recommendation:

That the City Council adopt a resolution to appropriate unallocated General Funds reserves for the purchase of seven iPads and data plans from Verizon Wireless for \$11,774, necessary accessories from various vendors for \$5,000, and tablet command costs of \$2,800 for a rounded total amount of \$19,570.

Fiscal Impact: The total cost of iPads, accessories, and data and tablet command service is \$19,570. Funds are requested from unappropriated General Funds reserves to be transferred into the communications account 101-64230-222-000000.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Safe community

- Maintain a financially sound and affordable city government

BACKGROUND:

The La Mesa Fire Department, along with many area fire departments, is contracted with Heartland Communications Facility Authority (HCFA) for fire dispatch services. A recent HCFA computer-aided dispatch (CAD) upgrade exposed a vulnerability in our MDC resilience. Our current MDCs are no longer compatible with the new software requirements used for CAD. The software and compatibility issues have elevated this to a mission critical need.

Because of the CAD upgrade and changes, we are working towards all vehicles and units in our Heartland Fire & Rescue three-city fleets upgrading to the new model; iPads and Tablet Command. We have already implemented this change for the Chief Officer vehicles and need to do the same for our Suppression Fleet now. In an effort to remain compatible with the operational zone's CAD system, and the Tablet Command program used in the vehicles and units throughout Heartland Fire & Rescue, we need to spend \$19,570 to replace the no longer supported equipment in our Engines and Ladder Truck. The \$19,570 is to get us through the emergent need and to the end of FY23. Any recurring or replacement costs will be budgeted in the appropriate accounts moving forward.

DISCUSSION:

Any updates or replacement to equipment would normally be requested and budgeted during the City budget process. Unfortunately, this need for new equipment was not anticipated and we were unable to go through the regular processes.

Although we are having to make the transition from MDCs to iPads quicker than we would like, the change will ultimately present a significant cost savings to the City. For comparison, if we were able to replace the seven MDCs, the cost for the equipment, hardware, and data service would be approximately \$55,440 for laptop computers compared to the \$19,570 for iPads. While MDCs have an estimated four-year service life, and iPads a shorter three-year service life, there is still a substantial savings. In addition, it will be much easier to replace iPads as needed than it was to order and receive MDCs.

We are requesting the transfer of \$19,570 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to cover the cost.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution to appropriate unallocated General Fund reserves for the purchase of seven iPads and data plans from Verizon Wireless for \$11,774, necessary accessories from various vendors for \$5,000, and tablet command costs of \$2,800 for a total rounded amount of \$19,570.

Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Bent Koch
Fire Chief



Tammi Royales
Director of Finance

Attachments: A. Resolution
 B. Cost Comparison Worksheet