

CITY OF SPRINGVILLE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2022

MEETING

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a special session on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at Springville City Hall. Mayor Dave Thomas presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members answering present to roll call were as follow:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 5	Councilmember Tim Walker
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: District 3 Councilmember Wayne Tucker

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Reverend Mike Ennis was called upon to give the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor Thomas stated the only topic for discussion in this special session this morning is the purchase of police and fire radios.

Fire Chief Richard Harvey stated St. Clair County has entered a contract to construct a radio system with digital technology requiring P25 radios. Our police department has operated on an analog VHF system since the late 1970s. The fire department upgraded to a digital system about 14 years ago with a county-wide fire grant, but it is not the same as the current technology. During the large fire event last night, our department could not communicate with other departments on scene without swapping radio units. These new P25 units are \$7,700 each and we need 50units. The cost for the fire department will be \$350,000 and it will be approximately \$500,000 for both police and fire.

Chief Harvey stated Chris Willis, Chief of Staff for the Jefferson County Commission, said that one hundred of these radios were purchased for the World Games, that were not used. Motorola has agreed to sell these at greatly reduced prices. These will be \$4000 each with

programming included. These units have many options loaded. He stated he talked to Kenwood as their radios are considerably less expensive, as is OEM, but with these discounts, the price is the same. The dispatch consoles are Motorola, so these units are immediately compatible without a bridge and compatible with the CAD system. This will save us \$160,000. We have received an ALEA Grant for \$50,000 that the police department can use towards mobile units for cars. These units are handheld units. The City of Gardendale saved us approximately \$150,000 with their donation of P25 radios. Motorola is on State Bid so we should be able to purchase without a bid.

Attorney Hill stated originally, he felt we had three options, one that purchases between governmental agencies are exempt from bid, but we found the County never actually purchased these units. The second option would be for the Council to determine that the radios are necessary for the protection of people and property, and the third option would be a purchase from the State Bid List. He stated he would have us an opinion by this afternoon, but he is comfortable with the purchase.

Chief Harvey said the State Bid is 28% off of retail. This is discounted 50%.

Councilmember Toles asked if these radios had a warranty, and was told yes, they are new in the box.

Councilmember Parker asked what model and was told APS6000.

Councilmember Toles asked how many units we need and was told 50. Chief Harvey stated his department has thirty-three units now.

Councilmember Parker confirmed that these were all portable units. He asked how much these will cost and was told \$208,368.00

Chief Harvey stated the County has \$1.4 million to cover four repeaters, eight consoles, and portable radios for the sheriff's department.

Councilmember Walker asked were these single frequency or multi-frequency and was told they are single. He stated the National Guard is being provided with multi-frequency P25 units in all their helicopters.

Chief Harvey stated there are mandated channels with four zones required. One zone is Homeland Security, one state and national frequency is mandated. He stated all the counties around us are already on this system. Since Jefferson County has a tower in Trussville and there are towers in Blount and Etowah, we get the benefit of those towers. For completed coverage in St. Clair County, the county system construction will have to be completed.

Councilmember Hennings asked were radios for cars included in this price, and was told no, but we have the ALEA grant for \$50,000 with a 5% match to go toward that cost. She asked could we reimburse ourselves for some of this cost from the grant, and was told no, it must be used for new radios.

Chief Harvey was asked if we could use the Gardendale donation to reduce the number of units needed, and was told no, theirs were ordered for their public works department, and do not have the upgraded specs.

Councilmember Toles asked did each person need their own radio or could they be left by one shift for the next shift and was told each officer and firefighter will need one, as this allows them to respond directly from their homes when called out in emergency situations.

Councilmember Parker asked was programming included and was told yes. He stated he thought that we needed to purchase Kenwood radios because of the price difference, but since these are the same price and are compatible with the dispatch console, this is what we need.

Mayor Thomas asked was there a subscription fee or maintenance fee. Chief Harvey stated there is not supposed to be. Originally there was a \$25 per unit per month fee, but many smaller cities could not afford this. Now there are four cores and we are joining a system.

Councilmember Reaves asked were there any other costs and was told there may be costs for lapel mikes for the police department. Those that are rated for extreme duty and can be used in the rain are about \$800 each. That amount could be worked into the budget in the coming year.

Chief Harvey stated these units are water resistant. There are more expensive models that are waterproof and can be submerged in water without damage. These 50 units will outfit our departments with three spares each. This allows a replacement in the event a unit is dropped and run over or department expansion.

Councilmember Vinson asked if we could expect fifteen years of service from these units and was told yes.

Councilmember Parker asked what the cutoff date for our answer was, and was told there are eighty units left, that are available first come, first served.

Councilmember Parker asked what will go in the cars and was told radios in the APX4000 range.

Chief Harvey stated we are going to be required to go to this type of radio. We are the only department in the county that received the ALEA grant.

Councilmember Toles stated he would like to put this in the budget.

Chief Walton stated Chief Harvey is on the County Radio Committee and he has been a tremendous asset.

Councilmember Walker moved we approve the purchase of these radios, as there is a demonstrated need for the safety of persons and property, from the State Bid List, contingent upon working to recapture money from some other projects. This was seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Hennings moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Porter, City Clerk