

# Agenda Item Report



**Winnebago County**  
*The Wave of the Future*

DATE: February 28, 2023  
FROM: Sheriff John Matz  
RE: Subscriber Unit replacement project

## **General Description:**

Replace existing end of life subscriber units (radios) and associated components for all county departments

## **Action Requested:**

Motion to approve resolution and budget transfer for \$2,725,000.00

## **Procedural Steps:**

(Show each level of committee and board approval needed, with meeting dates.)

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary_____	Meeting date: 03/06/23
Action taken: _____	Vote: _____
Other Committee: Personnel and Finance_____	Meeting date: 04/06/23
Action taken: _____	Vote: _____
County Board	Meeting date: 04/18/23

## **Background:**

Winnebago County owns the multi-million-dollar radio infrastructure which ensures that mission critical communications and interoperability occurs. Approximately 1,500 radios in Winnebago County (to include all police and fire) use this system. A major county-wide project began in 2010, involving multiple stakeholders, a massive feasibility study, and external RFP bids. After careful consideration, a Motorola Astro P25 radio system was selected. Infrastructure was solidified and the entire system was purchased for \$10.5 million. The system was designed as a long-term solution and provides a vehicle for the average 1.7 million radio transmissions that occur annually in Winnebago County.

Along with this massive investment, Winnebago County entered a joint cost savings measure with Outagamie County wherein the radio and recording system infrastructure core is jointly owned and shared with Outagamie County; an agreement that extends through December 31, 2031. Likewise, 2023 is Year 4 of a 10-year maintenance agreement for the Motorola Astro 25 P25 system.

As part of this upgrade, Winnebago County purchased all the subscriber unit radios in 2012-2013. The radios have a 7-year to 10-year life span and must be replaced before they fail. To avoid duplication of efforts, avoid multiple purchases and maintenance contracts, and eliminate unnecessary redundancy in the processes, the Sheriff's Office will coordinate the replacement of all radios for all County Departments, as agreed upon by all affected Department Heads.

The purchase will be for the following:

- Winnebago County Sheriff's Office – 205 portables; 40 mobiles; 14 BUCS/DVRS
- Winnebago County Highway Department – 28 portables; 69 mobiles
- Winnebago County Facilities Department – 40 portables
- Winnebago County Emergency Management – 9
- Winnebago County Public Health -10
- Winnebago County DA's Office -3
- Winnebago County Medical Examiner's Office - 4
  - Approx. 422 total (final numbers may change slightly)

Additionally, included in this purchase is miscellaneous associated equipment and software, programming, and installation.

The total for this project is \$2,477,050.00. The Administration Department advised us to add 10% as a contingency, bringing the grand total to **\$2,725,000.00**.

**Policy Discussion:**

The American Rescue Plan created the \$350 billion Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund (CFRF) and is intended in part to provide flexible funding to support COVID-19 response efforts by replacing lost public sector revenue and by strengthening support for vital public services. Sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act provide recipients with broad latitude to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services. The Final Rule issued by the US Department of the Treasury 31 CFR Part 35 states that category of *government services* includes (in part) the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

Justifiably, these broad criteria allow for the use of ARPA funds to replace crucial mission critical radios.

This project was removed from the 2023 CIP plan by the Administration Department as it clearly falls within the parameters of ARPA funding.

This APRA funding mechanism is preferred in lieu of bonding/borrowing for the project.

This project was originally recommended for approval by the ARPA Commission and was slated to be voted on by the County Board on 01/27/23. However, it was one of several resolutions that was essentially tabled as the originating funding resolution failed.

In consultation with the Administration Department, this project can move forward requesting the ARPA funding sources, while the APRA Commission is taking a reset for other projects. As such, it was presented in a similar fashion as a CIP project to the full County Board on 02/28/23 (see Attachment 2).

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1-Resolution

Attachment 2-Presentation to County Board on 02/28/23