

STAFF REPORT

Date: February 8, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Purchase of School Zone Traffic Flasher Communications Equipment and Cellular Service from Southwest Traffic Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$177,196.90. (Street Fund)

From: Kurt Dietrich, Traffic Engineer

Department: Public Works

Summary:

The City is responsible to designate and provide school zone traffic control located within its right-of-way, under the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 484B.363. To increase operational reliability, staff is seeking Council approval to purchase the required hardware to retrofit the City's school zone speed limit flasher infrastructure from radio to cellular interconnection. The purchase is for an amount not to exceed \$177,196.90, which includes a five-year cellular service plan. The purchase of the equipment has been allocated within the adopted FY23 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Staff recommends approval of purchase of school zone traffic flasher communications equipment and cellular service from Southwest Traffic Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$177,196.90.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

May 18, 2022 – Council adopted the FY23 CIP

Background:

The City's school zone speed limit flasher infrastructure is currently interconnected to the City's central server via a direct line-of-sight radio communication from a leased radio station located on Peavine Peak. The City's current nine-year lease agreement for the radio station on Peavine Peak expires on June 30, 2023. As the City grows, it has become more difficult for staff to maintain line-of-sight radio communication from its school zones to Peavine Peak, due to

obstructions such as tree canopies and multistory buildings. When radio communication is not reliable, flasher operation time change data to school zones may not be received properly by the field equipment, resulting in flasher operation during improper times. Cellular communication provides greater reliability of data transfer, without the need for line-of-sight from the flasher locations to a radio station.

Discussion:

The City is responsible to designate and provide school zone traffic control located within its right-of-way, under the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 484B.363.

Council adopted the FY23 CIP, which included \$110,000 for the school zone speed limit flasher hardware upgrades. Included within the attached hardware purchase request is a five-year cellular service package for data communications. This data package would replace the current radio station lease agreement of \$507.39 monthly for 2023, which expires on June 30, 2023. The terms of the expiring lease agreement included a four percent annual escalation for rent, and an eight percent annual escalation for electricity. The requested five-year cellular data package is a flat lump sum included with the hardware purchase, not subject to yearly escalation for its duration. A 10-year cellular service plan is available; however, due to continuous advancement in communication technology, the shorter term is recommended by staff at this time.

If approved, the hardware upgrades would be performed by staff prior to June 30, 2023 at 101 flasher locations citywide.

Financial Implications:

Public Works has allocated funds in the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan Street Fund budget for the hardware equipment. The included cellular data package would replace an expiring lease agreement currently budgeted within the General Fund.

Legal Implications:

NRS 332.115 provides that contracts which by their nature are not adapted to award by a competitive solicitation such as contracts for purchasing of equipment containing hardware or software for computers, and maintenance and support for hardware and associated peripheral equipment and devices for computers can be entered into without competitive bidding.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of purchase of school zone traffic flasher communications equipment and cellular service from Southwest Traffic Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$177,196.90.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Vendor Quote

Existing School Zone Flasher Locations