



MEMO

To: City Manager Plyman
From: Chief Higby
Date: 022417
Re: New Starcom Portables

As you know, we have been experiencing problems with our current portable radios. At numerous spots inside and outside the city, we are unable to copy traffic from dispatch or other officers. We also have issues transmitting out from the portables to dispatch and to other officers. The lack of consistent transmitting and receiving has created safety issues for the officers.

The Motorola APX 6000 Starcom portables are what we want to purchase. We currently have Starcom mobile radios in our squads, and those work well for interoperability as long as we are in the car. If we were outside the squad and we had the new portables, we would be afforded the same interoperability. We would keep our mobile VHF radios as a backup to the Starcom portables.

For background purposes, our current portables (Motorola HT 1250) were purchased in 2005, and the company stopped making them in 2013. I have attached the bid from Dixon Ottawa Communications. The APX 6000 Starcom radio is off of a state bid through Motorola. There is a \$34.00 per month per radio charge for using the system which was built into the 2017 budget. Since the budgeting process started, the price of the radios has gone up. My recommendation is to purchase 21 radios (19 for officers, 1 for dispatch and 1 spare) instead of 25 so that the amount does not exceed what was budgeted. 21 radios at \$4,418.30 would be \$92,784.30.