

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

September 15, 2020

Report prepared by: Michael Bourgon



Local Radio System upgrade

Recommendation from Administration

THAT Council award the contract and sole source to Bearcom for the upgrade of the local radio system and the supply and install of the Radio Tower at the Hammer Hill and further,

THAT Council approve Bearcom as the project manager for the upgrade of the local radio system and install of the Hammer Hill radio tower.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: Division 2

The current local radio system has several flaws, the County has budgeted \$275,000.00 for an upgrade of the local radio system and install of a new tower.

Since 2017 the County has been working with Bearcom on this project (timeline attached), since that time the County has purchased numerous pieces of equipment that are currently at the Bearcom Warehouse. Bearcom has also ordered equipment including the tower and batteries to complete this project, it is currently stored at their warehouse ready to be installed.

In 2019 Council commissioned a report by Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI) to do a comparison between transitioning to the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) or to continue with the upgrade the local system.

At the planning and priorities meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2020 the radio comparison report was presented to Council, it was decided that administration would move forward with the upgrade to the local radio system and the install of the new tower at Hammer Hill.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Fire Services Policy 11.6 Communications

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

N/A

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

Approving this recommendation will allow administration to proceed with the completion of the radio system upgrade and the installation of the Hammer Hill radio tower.

Organizational

This radio tower and system upgrade will improve the communications of the county significantly, this infrastructure will work and be compatible with all County and Rural Fire Association radio inventory. Bearcom will work with the County and the Rural Fire Associations to reprogram and train all departments on the use of the system.

Once the system is installed Bearcom will have the ability to access the site remotely to provide system resets and maintenance.

Financial

This project is within the allocated 2020 budget of \$275,000.00.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

Communication are a key component in emergency response. A proper communications system will significantly improve emergency response and ultimately improve public safety throughout the County.

Follow-up Action / Communications

N/A

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Hammer Hill Radio Tower Timeline and Quote.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 8, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Henderson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Brian Henderson