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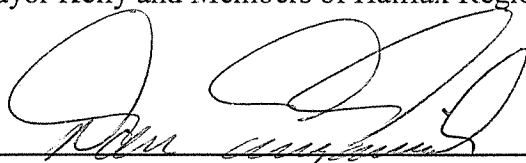


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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 22, 2004**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 15, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Purchase of Trunked Mobile Radio Vehicular Repeaters

**ORIGIN**

Approved 2004/05 Capital Budget

The Provincial Trunked Mobile Radio system does not provide adequate portable radio coverage inside large buildings such as hospitals, arenas and schools as well as in many open rural areas. This presents both an operational problem as well as an occupational safety issue for responding Fire Service personnel. The purchase of Trunked Mobile Radio Vehicular Repeaters involves a sole source vendor, which necessitates council approval.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the purchase of Mobecom II repeaters complete with software, cables, manuals and installation from Motorola Canada in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 with funding from Capital Account No. CHA00160, Trunked Mobile Radio System, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report.

## BACKGROUND

The Provincial Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR) system that HRM is in the process of migrating to, does not provide consistent in-building coverage in many larger buildings and in open rural spaces. These coverage limitations were known at the time the decision was made to proceed with the migration to the TMR system, however due to financial restraints it was decided to implement the new system and to request funding for the vehicular repeaters at a later date.

The vehicular repeaters requested are capable of enhancing radio coverage in weak signal areas whether it be in-building or in open spaces. This added coverage will provide personnel with the ability to communicate by portable radio from previously weak signal areas as well as relay the emergency distress signalling feature built in to each radio. This is in keeping with current Industry and Occupational Health standards.

In order to provide for reliable radio coverage and firefighter safety, sufficient vehicles must be equipped with the repeaters in order to insure that such a vehicle is available at the scene of any given emergency. The purchase of sixty (60) repeaters would allow for deployment from each fire station. An initial order of thirty (30) to be funded under this request with the balance to be submitted for capital budget consideration in the 2005-2006 budget year.

The repeaters are in use by many Public Safety organizations as they provide a cost effective solution to radio penetration/coverage problems. The vehicular repeaters form part of phase III of the TMR project.

## DISCUSSION

The Vehicular Repeaters requested are manufactured by Futurecom and sold through Motorola. The technology required to make the repeater work in conjunction with the Motorola Trunked Mobile Radio (Provincial TMR) system is provided under licence agreement to Futurecom. It is the only product so licenced and supported by Motorola.

The unit is being purchased under the "sole source purchase section 7.8.1" of the Procurement Policy which states:

*"A single source purchase occurs: Where the compatibility of a purchase with existing equipment, facilities or service is a paramount consideration and the purchase must be made from a single source; "*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Funding in the amount not to exceed \$400,000. is available in Capital Account No. CHA00160, Trunked Mobile Radio System. This has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services.

<u>Budget summary:</u>	<b><u>Capital Account No. CHA00160-Trunked Mobile Radio System</u></b>
	Cumulative unspent Budget \$1,426,194
	Less: Trunked Mobile Radio Veh. Rep. \$ 400,000
	\$1,026,194

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

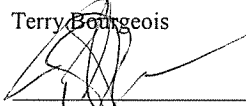
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserves budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The following alternatives to the vehicular repeaters were explored and ruled out.

1. **Erect additional towers.** The cost of erecting sufficient towers in order to provide portable radio coverage was deemed too expensive.
2. **Install in building repeaters in target buildings.** The number of buildings would exceed the requested number of vehicular repeaters and would present maintenance issues.
3. **In building communications bylaw.** Although the implementation of a bylaw requiring new buildings to be portable radio friendly may be viable for future buildings it would not address current issues.
4. **Use of simplex radio frequencies.** Not in keeping with industry and occupational health standards.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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