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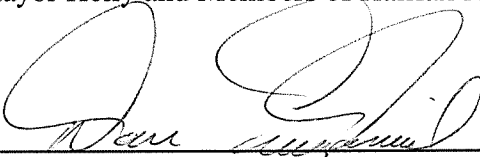


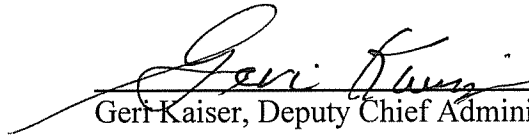
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council  
January 30, 2007

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services  
and Strategy

**DATE:** December 13, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR) & Paging Contract Renewal

**ORIGIN**

2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Operating Budgets.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that HRM renew its contracts with Aliant for paging and radio communications service on the TMR system for service from November 2007 until April 2010, with no change to the terms and conditions as stated in the contract between HRM and MT&T Mobility Incorporated (Aliant) dated July 18, 2002.

**BACKGROUND**

HRM's 2002 contract with Aliant for radio communications service on the TMR system and for paging was approved by Halifax Regional Council on July 9, 2002. This contract will expire on November 1, 2007. Terms of the contract are such that HRM must provide Aliant with a one-year notice regarding our intention to continue to use the TMR and paging system.

**DISCUSSION**

Halifax Regional Police have been using the TMR system since 2000, Fire since 2002, and TPW since the spring of 2006. All HRM's radio users have consolidated operations on the TMR system with the exception of Metro Transit buses (bus communication to Transit's operation centre is met using the existing low tier system). Renewing the TMR contract until April 2010 will align HRM's contract to co-terminate with the Province of Nova Scotia's contact for TMR service in April 2010.

Through negotiations between HRM staff and Aliant, Aliant has agreed to support the extension of the existing contract with no changes to the terms and conditions.

The TMR system has proven to be a reliable and effective means of wide-area coverage, providing the necessary interoperability with RCMP, Emergency Health Services, and various Provincial Departments.

TMR compatible user equipment has been renewed as follows: Police in 2005, Rural Fire in 2002, Core Fire in 2003, and TPW in 2006 (TPW was provided with new mobiles, and is re-using decommissioned Police portables). This equipment can continue to be used until the expiration of the TMR contract.

Airtime costs are reasonable, and based on current quantities the airtime bill is approximately \$534,000 per annum. These charges include:

Police	361 units @ \$29.00/month
Fire	894 units @ \$25.00/month
Transportation and Public Works	410 units @ \$19.00/month
Dispatch Consoles	13 Consoles @ \$300.00/month

(Note that additional operating costs are incurred independent of the radio system provider, including maintenance, frequency licenses and leased circuits.)

Fire & Emergency Services require a paging system to alert the Volunteer Fire Fighters. HRM owns the paging equipment and as part of the Trunked Mobile Radio program, contracts Aliant to maintain this equipment, provide the antenna sites and circuits to the sites. The operating cost is approximately \$200,000 per annum, and includes the maintenance cost of the HRM backup voice radio system.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Based on approximately \$734,000 per year for both Radio and Paging, operating costs are as follows:

<b>Operating Account</b>	<b>2007/2008**</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>
N721, N731, N732 Integrated Emergency Services	\$639,000	\$639,000	\$639,000
A640 Vehicle Tracking and Communications	<u>\$95,000</u>	<u>\$95,000</u>	<u>\$95,000</u>
	\$734,000	\$734,000	\$734,000

\*\* Includes the first six (6) months of the 2007/2008 fiscal year that are covered under the existing contract.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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

**ALTERNATIVES**


1. HRM may choose to implement its own wide-area radio system. This is not recommended at this time.

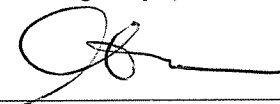
**ATTACHMENTS**

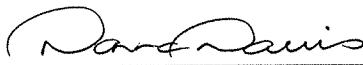
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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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