

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

25 MARCH 2009

Purchase of Mobile and Portable Radios

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board authorize the purchase of up to 80 Motorola XTL 2500 mobile radios, and up to 80 Motorola Astro Digital XTS 2500 portable radios, along with ancillary equipment, from Motorola Canada Inc. as a sole source purchase at a cost not to exceed \$460,873.60, including applicable taxes.

SYNOPSIS

The current York Regional Police inventory of Spectra mobile radios and MTS2000 portable radios was purchased between 1993 and 2000. The Motorola Spectra mobile radios are used in York Regional Police vehicles and the MTS2000 portable radios are used by officers on foot patrol and other duties. Many of these radios are operated 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and often under very challenging conditions. Some of the technology currently in use by York Regional Police is no longer supported or manufactured by Motorola. Due to the age, continual usage and exposure to weather extremes, their reliability is impacted.

In order to ensure critical radio communication is maintained, York Regional Police established a program which replaces older portable and mobile radios with new equipment. To date, the radios at 2, 3, and 4 District and Support Services have been upgraded. In order to accommodate operational needs, 80 portables are needed for 5 District in 2009. District 1 is scheduled for an upgrade in 2010.

There are 127 Spectra mobile radios still in service. Despite the lack of support and availability from Motorola for these radios, York Regional Police has consistently maintained mobile radios in working order, however, that is becoming increasingly more challenging due to a lack of parts and support. The purchase of 80 new mobile radios will ensure the continued replacement of a significant number of Spectra mobile radios currently in use.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds in the amount of \$450,000.00 exist in the 2009 Capital Budget for the purchase of radio equipment. As a result of a \$369 per unit discount, the cost of the purchases reflect a decrease of 1.25 percent for mobile units and a 5.15 percent decrease for portable units when compared to 2008 prices.

The proposed purchase of radio equipment for 2009 is as follows:

Radio Type	Number of Units	Unit Price (incl. P.S.T. + G.S.T.)	Total Cost
Mobile XLT Model 2500	80	\$3311.50	\$264,920.00
Portable MTS2000	80	\$2449.42	\$195,953.60
Total	160		\$460,873.60

The cost of this purchase is \$440,480.80, net of the GST rebate, and therefore falls within the amount approved in the 2009 budget.

BACKGROUND

Since 1993, York Regional Police has operated a Smartnet II Simulcast Trunking Radio System manufactured by Motorola. The Motorola Smartnet II Simulcast Trunking Radio is a proprietary software controlled system. In order to be fully compatible with our current Smartnet II Simulcast Trunking Radio System, both mobile and portable radios must be supplied by Motorola.

The voice radio system is the most critical communication system required for the delivery of service to the public. Although most call dispatching now takes place over the data radio system, voice radio is the essential communication medium relied upon during emergent operational incidents. In particular, police officers are totally reliant on this system in situations such as suspect apprehension pursuits, high risk vehicle stops, foot pursuits and any task in which officers must be deployed on foot. It is the only form of communication in vehicles not equipped with a mobile workstation. The voice radio system is often an officer's only means of summoning assistance or reporting upon a critical situation where time is of the essence. The *Police Services Act Adequacy and Effectiveness Regulations* mandate police forces to provide police officers on patrol with portable two-way voice radio communication.

York Regional Police has purchased system compatible, high quality voice radio equipment built specifically for use by emergency service providers from Motorola since 1993. Many of the original mobile and portable radios purchased between 1993 and 2000 continue to be in use today. In 2004, Motorola ceased to provide support or parts for the Spectra mobile radio and they ceased production of the MTS2000 portable radio in 2005.

York Regional Police has continued to service portable and mobile radios by using salvageable parts from older radios, however, parts have become increasingly difficult to obtain. In order to

replace older mobile and portable radios, York Regional Police established a radio replacement program. Since its inception, 2, 3, and 4 District and Support Services have received new portable radios. In order to accommodate operational needs at 5 District, 80 new portables are required this year. District 1 is scheduled for an upgrade in 2010. The purchase of 80 new mobile radios will ensure the replacement of Spectra mobile radios, which are increasingly becoming difficult to support.

Due to the proprietary nature of the system, there are no viable alternative vendors and as a result, Motorola Canada Inc. is the recommended vendor for the supply of replacement mobile and portable radios.

The recommended radios are compatible with the new APCO P25 Standard for public safety radio systems and are reusable with any new APCO P25 system put into service to replace the existing system regardless of system manufacturer. Reliable portable and mobile radio communication is critical for both officer safety and the effective delivery of service to the public.

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