



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting September 20, 2022

**DATE:** September 20, 2022

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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### Emergency Operations Center Technology Upgrades for the Corpus Christi Fire Department

#### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing the purchase of technology upgrades for audio and video distribution, web conferencing, and a multi-monitor video wall for emergency operations for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's Emergency Operations Center and a three-year service agreement with The Personal Computer Store, Inc., dba Avinext, of College Station, Texas, in amount of \$349,411.68, with FY 2022 funding in the General Fund.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution approves the purchase of technology upgrades for audio and video distribution, web conferencing, and a multi-monitor video wall for emergency operations for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's Emergency Operations Center and a three-year service agreement with The Personal Computer Store, Inc., dba Avinext

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Currently, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is working with audio-visual equipment that has been in operation since 2001 and is no longer cost effective to maintain and has become unreliable. The proposed upgrade will provide the EOC with increased reliability and reduced maintenance costs. The proposed upgrade includes new computer monitors and audio equipment which will more effectively and reliably transmit critical information in the event of an emergency.

This upgrade will provide for two direct view LED video walls at the existing display locations which will allow for configurable displays of visual information and new digital signal processors and amplifiers to improve sound and acoustics in the EOC. Additionally, it will include two new wireless microphone body packs with lapel mics and the installation of all new wiring needed within the EOC to support both video and audio upgrades as well as the removal of the old equipment and wiring that is no longer needed and does not support the new upgraded systems. Lastly, the upgrade will also include a three-year

warranty in the instance that services are needed.

The City of Corpus Christi received Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (TASPP) funds in the beginning of Fiscal Year 2022. The Fire Department was allocated \$349,411.68 specifically for the purchase of upgraded audio and visual equipment to adequately suit the EOC with the most up to date equipment.

The Corpus Christi Fire Department's (CCFD) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) activates the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) whenever there is a major incident or event that carries the potential for loss of life, significant property damage, damage to critical infrastructure and a significant impact on business.

The OEM's main function is to provide and coordinate the necessary plans of action during emergency situations that keep our Corpus Christi community safe. The OEM is responsible for emergency operations that include, organizing the appropriate staff to operate the EOC, operate communications and warning systems, provide information and guidance to the public, maintain information on appropriate resources, services and operations, work with and provide support to other jurisdictions such as Nueces County, analyze hurricane information and other hazards to provide appropriate recommendations for countermeasures, collect, evaluate and disseminate damage assessment and other essential information and ensure that the City of Corpus Christi Emergency Preparedness Plans are carried out.

The EOC provides a central location for all information and authority and allows both face to face and virtual coordination among personnel who make emergency decisions. The most critical component of an EOC is its communication and information management system. The EOC relies on its audio and visual equipment to adequately perform these functions. During an emergency activation, this equipment provides capabilities for the OEM to view cameras throughout the City for proper assessment, display all web base sites such as weather radars from the National Weather Service, display WebEx weather briefings/ meetings with National Weather Service and other jurisdictions and display the WebEOC system so that all emergency management personnel can see real time information that occurs during the emergency activation event.

**PROCUREMENT DETAIL:**

This procurement is a direct purchase with The Personal Computer Store, Inc., dba Avinext, under the Local Government Code, Section 252.022(a) (2), as this purchase is necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the City's residents.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative would be to continue using the current audio and visual equipment in the EOC which is over 20 years old and has gone beyond its life expectancy rendering the equipment unreliable for Emergency Operations personnel to obtain vital information in the instance of an emergency.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact for CCFD in FY 2022 is \$349,411.68 which will be funded through the General Fund.

**FUNDING DETAIL:**

Fund: 1020 General Fund  
Organization/Activity: 11950 Emergency Management  
Mission Element: 095 Emergency Management  
Project # (CIP Only): N/A  
Account: 520100 Computer Equipment & Software

Amount: \$349,411.68

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the resolution authorizing the purchase of computer and audio equipment upgrades for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's Emergency Operations Center and a three-year service agreement with The Personal Computer Store, Inc., dba Avinext of College Station, Texas, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Price Sheet  
Service Agreement  
Resolution