



COLLIN COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
4300 Community Avenue
McKinney, TX 75071

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2013
TO: Chief Deputy Rick Allen
FROM: Major Pam Palmisano *PP*
RE: Radio Consulting

We have placed the Radio Consulting project as an FYI on the Commissioners' Court Agenda. As soon as the PO is cut we will start working with the chosen consultant.

We requested that a complete radio upgrade be included in the five year plan for Collin County. This is a total replacement of the radio system infrastructure. This is needed for several reasons, the most important being we will be reaching the end of life cycle for our Smartnet Radio System.

Our current radio system was installed in 2006. We began planning for the system in 2004, making the purchase in 2005. At that time we could continue to add to our system thru December 2010. At that time, Motorola committed to having parts available for five years past that date. In 2015 parts will no longer be made for our radio system. Should we experience problems with any of our infrastructure equipment we would have to find a vendor that still has the parts or purchase them used from another agency. This did occur with our last radio system and we were forced to purchase the used part from a radio vendor in Louisiana with no guarantee that it would actually work. Motorola has begun noting the dates on their Maintenance Contracts of which parts will no longer be available. Those parts will remain on the Maintenance Contract and will be fixed under a "best effort" clause.

RCC consulting firm has worked with the Cities of Plano, Frisco and McKinney in the selection, purchase and installation of their P-25 radios systems that have been installed within the last two years.

They also work with NTCOG on their regional radio projects. Specifically the 700 Overlay Radio System and the GAP analysis radio project. Both of these projects involved our radio system. Collin County hosts one of the sites that house the 700 Overlay systems for Collin, Denton, Tarrant and Dallas Counties. Before selecting our Wilmeth Road Tower as the Collin County hosting site, RCC was required to not only look at our entire radio system but also our coverage areas. The GAP Analysis project has RCC studying the radio situations and future needs for Police Departments, Sheriff's Office and Volunteer Fire Departments in Collin County (and the region). The work that has already been completed on these projects can be used for our project.

RCC understands the interoperability standards set forth in this area (Region) and I feel will be able to quickly access our needs and recommend a radio system that will carry us into the future.

PP/th