

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting**

**May 1, 2023**

**Members:** Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair  
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the April 3, 2023 Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Ord. B-38

Temp. Ord. B-39

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-38**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with AT&T for telephone service lines which support alarms, elevators and dispatch non-emergency numbers throughout the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joshua Kington, Director of Information Services, presented Temporary Ordinance B-38 to Council. Article I, Section 2 of the City Charter, adopted pursuant to Art. XVIII, Sections 3 and 7 of the Ohio Constitution, authorizes this Council to make exception to the competitive bidding procedures set forth in the Revised Code. Lines are used for emergencies and/or alarms for various City properties. The City obtained quotes and AT&T was able to provide the 24 necessary services at the best cost.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with AT&T for Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) lines which support alarms, elevators and dispatch non-emergency numbers throughout the City. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from funds properly appropriated to the various departments of the City for these purposes, according to an apportionment of costs as between the departments.

Mr. Kington stated that because of a price increase with Windstream, they switched all the lines to AT&T at a significant savings. The cost at Windstream was going to be approximately \$60,000 a year for these lines, and AT&T is just shy of \$34,000 Combined with the services already provided by AT&T, this would cut the cost of landline phone services by 60 percent.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that last year's cost was \$46,940.42. The next three years, it would be \$33,840 a year rather than the \$60,000 that Windstream was going to charge. Mr. Kington stated that most providers want to move away from POTS lines, but, luckily, AT&T came to the rescue.

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Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-38 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (2-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-39**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with Motorola, Inc. for the purchase of APX radios for use by safety services, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joshua Kington, Director of Information Services, presented Temporary Ordinance B-39 to Council. Council passed Ordinance 49-2022 for the purchase of Motorola radios for use in the Fire and Police Departments. This is the second phase of a mandatory upgrade to be completed by 2025. The City will receive a credit to replace non-upgrade eligible APX Radios. Pricing for this contract was obtained from a statewide consortium, eliminating the need for additional competitive bidding.

The Director of Public Safety will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with Motorola, Inc. for the purchase of APX radios for use by safety services. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Kington stated that the current Motorola radios are 20 years old and will, in the next 18 to 24 months, not work with a multi-agency radio communication system, which is the digital network that the County uses. Essentially what they are doing is providing encryption to prevent unauthorized access to people who shouldn't be listening to the sensitive radio activity of the safety forces. The current radios do not have that functionality, so they are purchasing new radios to be able to work with the new system once it comes about. The biggest reason they are buying them now as opposed to waiting longer is because they are moving into the COG in the next six to twelve months. These radios will be programmed remotely and provide the link-layer authentication that they would need.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that this was budgeted at \$827,000, but it is coming in under budget. There's a credit offset for \$124,000 to replace the non-upgrade eligible APX radios, so the cost will be \$547,000 compared to \$827,000. Mr. Kington stated that they are significantly under budget. They used the list price during budget season, and they are saving a significant amount off of those prices.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-39 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (2-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.