

# **SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## *Emergency Services*

**TO:** Sarasota County Commission  
**THROUGH:** Randall H. Reid, County Administrator  
**FROM:** Mike Tobias, Fire Chief  
**DATE:** September 17, 2013  
**SUBJECT: Item 2E: Update on the 800-MHz Public Safety Communications System**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The current 800-MHz Public Safety Communications system was installed in 1996. Manufacturer support of the system has declined to “Best Effort” level due to component obsolescence. Agencies are encountering coverage shortfalls, especially in the east part of Sarasota County, due to population expansion beyond the original design. There are improved technologies available to provide enhanced features for Public Safety responders.

Sarasota and Manatee County are collaborating to implement a regional public safety radio system and have jointly created a radio consultant RFP which has been issued by Sarasota County procurement. It is anticipated that an interlocal agreement will be prepared that sets forth the shared funding of this new regional system.

### **RELEVANT PRIOR BOARD ACTION:**

1. August 20, 2013 – Authorized borrowing \$17.9 million

### **ANALYSIS:**

- Release of the Consultant RFP August 7, 2013.
- Ten (10) vendors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting on August 26, 2013.
- The RFP submittals for the consultant will be opened on September 11, 2013.
- Notice of bid award will be issued approximately 30 days later.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Next steps include awarding a radio consultant contract, issuing an RFP for a radio system vendor, evaluating the RFP, closing the borrow prior to the award to a system vendor, awarding the vendor contract and system installation.

### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

Repayment of the cited borrowing will come from Surtax 3 revenues.