



City Council Report

Date: July 2, 2018
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Travis Cutright, Chief Information Officer
Randy Thompson, Deputy CIO
Subject: Request to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for Mesa Radio Site Sharing – Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to enter into an IGA that allows the City of Mesa and the FBI to share radio communications sites.

Background

The City of Mesa and the FBI have individually constructed and/or license communications sites that house radio systems that support their respective radio users. Each agency owns or licenses sites that could potentially benefit the other agency in terms of improved radio coverage, particularly for Public Safety. To take advantage of these benefits, an IGA that authorizes site sharing when technically feasible is required.

Discussion

Mesa owns or licenses and maintains radios sites throughout Mesa and on two nearby mountaintops. A site sharing agreement would allow the FBI to install infrastructure at one or more of Mesa's sites to improve the coverage of their radio systems when technically feasible and mutually beneficial.

In similar manner, this IGA would enable Mesa to install infrastructure at one or more of the FBI's sites to improve the coverage of Mesa's radio systems when technically feasible and mutually beneficial.

Once this IGA is executed, the FBI will utilize space in the radio site the City of Mesa licenses from Arizona Public Service (APS) on Shaw Butte in Phoenix for the TOPAZ radio network. The FBI will share the site license fee paid to APS for the Shaw Butte site, and Mesa will provide the FBI with air conditioned space and electrical connections in the radio equipment shelter and space on the radio tower.

Alternatives

1. Execute the IGA and allow the City of Mesa and the FBI to share radio communications sites where it is technically feasible and mutually beneficial to do so. This could potentially benefit each respective agency in terms of improved radio coverage, particularly for Public Safety.
2. Take no action. If this agreement is not approved, it will prevent the City of Mesa and the FBI from taking advantage of sharing pre-existing communications sites when technically feasible and mutually beneficial. The City of Mesa and the FBI may incur additional expense if communications sites need to be developed and constructed to support City of Mesa and FBI communications needs.

Fiscal Impact

The FBI will pay the City of Mesa one-half the cost of the APS license fee for the Shaw Butte radio site. The Shaw Butte radio site license fee is currently \$14,400 per year, so the FBI will pay Mesa \$6,000 per year; this will include the cost of electrical power consumed by the FBI's equipment, which is negligible compared to the TOPAZ radio network equipment power consumption. This will save the City of Mesa and members of the TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC) \$6,000 per year in site license cost.