



City Council Report

Date: July 3, 2023
To: City Council
Through: Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer
From: Joseph Sugihara, Interim Chief Information Officer
Chuck Craig, Information Technology Manager
Subject: Request to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County for Radio Communications Site Sharing (**Citywide**)

Purpose and Recommendation

Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement that allows the City of Mesa and Maricopa County to share radio communications sites.

Background

The City of Mesa and Maricopa County have individually constructed communication sites that house radio systems that support their respective radio users. Each agency owns 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 Intergovernmental Agreement that authorizes site sharing when technically feasible is required.

Discussion

Maricopa County owns and maintains radio communications sites throughout the county. They have several high elevation sites located around the valley including facilities on White Tanks, Thompson Peak, Mt. Ord, and Bronco Butte. Radio transmitters located on these mountaintops provide wide area radio coverage for users throughout the valley. A site sharing agreement would allow the City of Mesa to install infrastructure at one or more of these sites that would augment the coverage of Mesa's communications systems.

Likewise, Mesa owns and maintains radios sites throughout Mesa. A site sharing agreement would allow Maricopa County to continue using Mesa's Twin Knolls and TRW radio sites.

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Maricopa County would continue to share in the backup power systems maintenance costs at these locations.

Alternatives

1. Execute the IGA and allow the City of Mesa and Maricopa County to share radio communications sites where it is technically feasible and financially advantageous to do so.
2. Take no action. If this agreement is not approved, it will prevent Maricopa County from taking advantage of City communications sites, forcing them to remove their systems.

Fiscal Impact

There is little material fiscal impact in approving this agreement, per the Site Sharing Supplemental Agreement(s), Maricopa County would participate in the cost to replace, as needed, backup batteries and electrical generators.