



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

To: Mayor Graham and City Council
From: Dennis Sullivan, Director of Engineering & Public Works and
Walter Denton, City Administrator
Date: August 16, 2004
Subject: MOTION - Nextel Phones / Radios for Public Works

List of committees that have reviewed: This item was submitted to the Public Works Committee for its consideration at its August 5, 2004 meeting.

Background: We are seeking approval for the attached proposal from Nextel to provide cellular and two-way radio service to the Public Works Department. The existing radio system used by Public Works employees is inadequate during daily service as well as emergency call situations. Current hand-held radios have limited reception and broadcast range and batteries quickly lose their charge. Truck-mounted units while effective in certain parts of O'Fallon are not able to contact or receive O'Fallon when the units are in Fairview Heights. Detailed call logs are made available monthly by Nextel to ensure no abuse of cell capability. The radio-only phones have no cell capability.

The Nextel proposal is based upon government pricing discounts on service and equipment. We have also secured an agreement to provide an additional \$50 per phone equipment discount which would nearly cover all of the cost of purchasing the phones. This proposal provides 9 phone/radio units and 8 radio-only units. Currently only two Public Works employees (the Public Works Manager and Public Works Supervisor) carry cell phones. These employees along with one Engineering Project Manager would switch service from Cingular to Nextel. The remaining Nextel units would allow foremen and certain designated employees and crews to carry Nextel units.

Legal Considerations, if any: None.

Budget Impact: The estimated total annual cost for phone/radio service under this proposal is approximately \$7,600. The discounted cost of phones, belt clips and vehicle chargers is approximately \$600. These items were budgeted for in the FY2004-2005 budget.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Nextel proposal in the amount of \$8,200.