



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#20-0671

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2020

TITLE: Motion Approving First Amendment(s) to the Consolidated Regional E-911 Communications System and the Regional Interlocal Agreement Between Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for Cooperative Participation in a Regional Public Safety Intranet – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the first amendment(s) to the Consolidated Regional E-911 Communications System ("Participation Agreement") and the Regional Interlocal Agreement ("RILA") between Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for Cooperative Participation in the Regional Public Safety Intranet.

Background

On September 3, 2013, the City Commission approved the City's participation in the consolidated regional E-911 communications system with Broward County ("County") known as the Participation Agreement (Exhibit 1). In conjunction with entering into the Participation Agreement each municipality also entered a Regional Interlocal Agreement ("RILA") to migrate 911 dispatch services into the County's Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) communication platform (Exhibit 2). On August 3, 2020, Broward County Administrator requested municipal managers to approve the amended agreements to align with the performance standards of the Operator Agreement the County has with the Broward Sheriff's Office ("BSO").

The County and BSO intend to amend the Operator Agreement to continue the services of BSO as the operator of the System, permit municipalities to procure services above base level, to update the performance standards as recommended by Fitch & Associates, and ensure compliance with Criminal Justice Information System and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The proposed amendment addresses the following changes: 1) Establishes a baseline of services to all participating municipalities. 2) Redefines the responsibilities of the Operational Review Team (ORT) as it relates to the review of operational issues that may affect field operations of the fire and law disciplines. 3) Permits an engagement process for which the identification of an issue or a revision to a policy, procedure, or policy of the 911 system can be raised by any of the participating law enforcement or fire rescue agency.

The proposed amendments raise three areas of concern for the City of Fort Lauderdale: 1) Erlang Baseline Measurement, 2) Engagement Process, and 3) Fitch & Associates Performance Standard. The Erlang Baseline Measurement establishes a “Base Level of Services” which the County has not yet provided. Therefore, staff cannot determine if the County’s definition of “Base Line of Services” is the same level of service that the City is presently receiving. Second, although there is an “Engagement Process” in place for implementing and contesting modifications to the system, the County will have the final say in the outcome. Lastly, as it relates to the Fitch & Associates Performance Standards staff is not in agreement with all the recommendations made under the report and there is no clarity as to which performance standards will be implemented. For example, the County has stated in the past, based on the “Fitch Findings”, that they believe the City’s police department can operate on less than three channels and/or fewer call takers and dispatchers. Our police and fire department do not agree with the conclusions; however we believe we have to adopt this RILA to continue receiving services. In addition, under the proposed agreement if the City requires “above base level services” such as the City’s desire to maintain the additional channel or call takers/dispatchers, the City would be responsible for the cost.

Resource Impact

There is no current fiscal impact for this item. Future fiscal year expenditures are contingent upon Commission adoption of annual operating budgets.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2024* initiative, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- Goal 6: Build a safe and well-prepared community
- Objective: provide quick and exceptional fire, medical, and emergency response

This item advances the *Fast-Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We are United*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Participation Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Regional Interlocal Agreement

Exhibit 3 – First Amendment Participation Agreement and RILA

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Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager