

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
 Meeting Date                      Held Until  
 /   /                                      /   /  
 Agenda Item No:                      Agenda Item No:  
 \_\_\_\_\_                                      \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** General Services

**4/5 Vote Not Required**

**Contact:**  
Rob Kambak

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-3211

**Board Date:**  
8/18/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** REDCOM Expansion.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:** Adopt a resolution authorizing construction of the REDCOM improvement project to be performed by County employees without competitive bidding.

## CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

**EXPENDITURES:**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:**

Estimated Cost	\$54,000	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$0
Amount Budgeted	\$54,000	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$0
Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)	\$0	Other Transfers (Source:)	\$0
Additional Requested	\$0	Additional Funds Requested	\$0

**Explanation (if required):** None.

**Prior Board Action:** 02/05/08 - Approve an amendment to the RossDrulisCusenbery agreement for the design of the REDCOM expansion.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:** If the resolution is not adopted, the start of the expansion project will be delayed or deferred leading to additional cost to the County. Deferring the project would also prevent REDCOM from addressing the space needs that are creating safety and operational issues.

**Background:****Project Description**

The Redwood Empire Dispatch Communications Authority (REDCOM) is a joint powers authority (JPA) created in 2002 to dispatch ambulances and fire department first responders in Sonoma County simultaneously on all medical and fire-related incidents fielded through the 911 system.

REDCOM currently operates on a 24-hour per day, 7-day per week basis in a 1,012 square foot office space located in the County Sheriff's headquarters at 2796 Ventura Avenue, adjacent to the Sheriff's 911 dispatch center. This amount of space is too small for its operation and does not allow for the required increase in staff to accommodate outside agency participation during an emergency event (e.g., earthquake, large scale fires, toxic spill, etc.). Further dispatchers are located more closely together than optimal, reducing efficiency and creating a less than ideal operational environment. While REDCOM currently serves the vast majority (all but 4) of the public agencies providing fire and ambulance services within the county, the lack of space restricts REDCOM's desire to expand services to include additional jurisdictions. For improved coordination among the multiple agencies who often work together in response to some fire and medical emergencies, it is hoped that someday all the providers in the County will use REDCOM's services.

The existing operation has six dispatch workstations, and four administrative personnel work areas. The total project will add approximately 800-1,000 square feet of new work space, and will move the administrative functions out of the dispatch room. It will allow for two new dispatch work stations (for a total of eight). REDCOM's Board of Directors comprised of representatives from three member fire agencies, a public ambulance provider, the EMS Agency, the Public Health Officer and the County Administrator's office feels that this work and the additional capacity it will provide will accommodate the anticipated short-term needs of the agency.

**Design, Budget and Work Scope**

Because of funding limitations, the project was divided into phases. The first phase of the project will include the construction of the expansion space, exclusive of new furnishings, data infrastructure, radio consoles, etc. This would establish a framework for future completion of the full expansion. Future phases will include the purchase and installation of furnishings, finishes, and communications equipment as funding becomes available. The estimated construction cost for Phase 1 is \$54,000 and the Phase 1 scope of work will include:

1. Raised flooring throughout the expansion space;
2. New windows installed in the existing wall that divides the current work area from the expansion space;
3. The new sheetrock wall in the expansion space that encloses the proposed expansion area fully;
4. Rough-in electrical as required.

**Construction Strategy**

Construction in the Sheriff Headquarters dispatch area requires background clearances for workers, special supervision to work in critical power and telephone rooms, off-site storage of equipment and materials, and the ability to work around and within existing 24/7 critical operations. Although the Sheriff's Building is not a detention facility, much of the same level of security is required in a number of areas given the evidence storage, crime scene investigation, and the sensitive records that are housed in the building. It may be necessary for any construction crew working on the project to access secure areas throughout the building. Further, at the direction of the Sheriff's Department, use of an outside contractor would require temporary security measures, such as temporary walls, doors, fences, gates, proximity card readers, be erected both within the building and in the parking lot in order to control access to the site. The estimated cost of these security measures would add \$30,000 to the project costs, increasing the construction cost of the project to \$84,000.

Because of the above restrictions, Staff recommends that Phase 1 be completed utilizing the Facilities Operations force account construction crew. Under the Public Contract Code, force account labor is limited to working on new construction projects with a valuation under \$30,000. However, the County has waived public bidding of a project when, for reasons of urgency, security, costs and/or difficulty of working around existing operations, the public bidding process would not yield a competitive result. Facilities Operations already provides ongoing maintenance within the Sheriff Headquarters and around the 24/7 dispatch operations. These maintenance assignments within this facility have required that Fac. Ops staff pass extensive security background checks and it has provided staff with experience with the many aspects of working in and around critical 24/7 operations. In addition the use of Facilities Operations will not require the temporary access control measures, avoiding the \$30,000 cost of those measures.

The restricted scope of the project, the need for security clearances, and the additional cost that would be incurred if an outside contractor were used create conditions in this project such that there is no financial advantage or any other compelling reason to put the project out for competitive bid.

**Funding**

Project funding is to be provided by REDCOM and has been appropriated through Capital Projects Index #789016.

**Schedule**

Construction is expected to begin after building permits are obtained in November 2009.

**Requested Board Actions:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing construction of the REDCOM improvement project to be performed by County employees without competitive bidding.

**Attachments:** Resolution.

**On File With Clerk:** None.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**