


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>22-209</b>	Meeting:	<b>May 9, 2022</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>43</b>	Roll Call:	<b>22-0707</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Dana Wingert, Chief of Police</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approving negotiation and agreement to terminate tower lease agreements between the City of Des Moines and Saga Communications of Iowa, LLC.

### SYNOPSIS:

The City entered into two (2) leases with Saga Communication in 2010 for space on two (2) tower sites located at Vandalia and Alleman. The space allowed communication equipment to be placed on the towers as part of the Metro Interoperability Communication System (MICS). This radio communication system enabled multi-jurisdictional communications between area emergency responders. However, the system has become obsolete due to improved radio systems. An agreement is necessary to stop paying to lease tower space prior to the end date of the lease agreement.

Equipment purchased to create MICS may need to be removed at each tower site. The removal will be performed by a qualified responsive and responsible vendor.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Cost not to exceed \$35,000.

Funding Source: FY2022 Adopted Operating Budget page 193, 911 Reimbursement.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- MICS was designed to provide interoperable communications between emergency responders throughout the Polk County area as well as portions of neighboring counties. The system provided common radio channels for coordinating multi-jurisdictional or large-scale events.
- The City of Des Moines, with Council approval, negotiated and signed lease agreements for space on four (4) tower sites. Two (2) of these towers belonged to Saga Communications d/b/a Des Moines Radio Group located in Vandalia and Alleman. The leases include a term of five (5) years with three (3), 5-year extensions. The equipment purchased to create the radio coverage and the tower leases were secured through a grant, 911 Reimbursement and Polk County support.

- Des Moines emergency responders have migrated to the statewide interoperable radio system which has eliminated the need to lease tower space from Saga Communications and made the equipment that was placed on the towers obsolete. A new agreement is needed to end the lease as early as possible to save City resources. The equipment related to MICS will be removed by a qualified responsive and responsible vendor or possibly given to Saga in exchange for an early termination of the leases.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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