

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office / OES G. H. Johnson

BOARD AGENDA # *B-2

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE January 24, 2006

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Issue a Request for Proposals for and Purchase an Emergency Notification and Alerting System

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the proposed scope of services for a Request for Proposals for an Emergency Notification and Alerting System to obtain a system to conduct internal and public notifications related to pending/actual emergencies or disasters.
2. Authorize the Interim Purchasing Agent to release a Request for Proposals.
3. Authorize the Interim Purchasing Agent to enter into an agreement with the company that is determined to be the best qualified to meet the scope of services and purchase this equipment/software, including use of \$35,000 in existing funding in the Chief Executive Office Plant Acquisition budget.
4. Direct the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary financial transaction form to allocate existing funding in the correct accounts if necessary, once the final cost of the project has been determined.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The original budget allocation for the notification system was \$50,000 through the Fiscal Year 2004 Homeland Security Grant. Additional funds are required in order to purchase the system that will meet all of the required needs within Stanislaus County. It is estimated that another \$35,000 is required. It is recommended that the additional \$35,000 would come from existing funds currently budgeted in the Chief Executive Office Plant Acquisition budget

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2006-47

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, DeMartini, and Vice Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Chairman Simon

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:

Christine Ferraro
CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

On August 3, 2004 the Board approved acceptance of Fiscal Year 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program for the Enhancement of Local Emergency response to terrorist events. The grant provided \$1,826,628 in funding for equipment, planning and administration for local prevention and response to a terrorist event. One priority of the preparedness and response component is the need to notify the public as well as our internal responders and officials of activities related to terrorist and/or natural events, emergencies and disasters. Of that \$1,826,628, \$50,000 was allocated for a telephone based notification system. It is anticipated that an additional \$35,000 will be necessary to adequately fund this project. The additional funding has been identified as available in the Plant Acquisition budget. This agenda item is being submitted to the Board of Supervisors to authorize initiation of the process to seek proposals from vendors for this work and to purchase this equipment and software.

The notification system is one that would be applicable countywide, for messaging and alerting governmental officials and resources (city, county and districts, as well as key private partner agencies) of information related to actual or pending situations.

The system would also be capable of making carefully controlled, wide area notification to the public for emergency related warning and directions. This part of the system can be specifically directed to target specific individuals, locations or areas. Typical uses could include warning or dissemination of information related to hazardous material releases, warning of potential flood conditions, informing geographical areas of potential electrical power failure, etc. The system can perform rapid, high volume telephone and cell phone dialing (with capabilities to redial and confirm message delivery) as well as pager notification, fax messaging and e-mailing.

Staff requests permission to issue a request for proposal for the notification system. Minimum capabilities/requirements would include:

Internal notification

- Capable of handling 2,500 to 3,000 internal users in a database, including multiple contact numbers / addresses and methods for each.
- Capable of creating groups, either pre-arranged or ad hoc, of users for notification (i.e.: Chief Executive Officer, elected officials, public works, etc.)
- Capable of assigning priorities related to methods of notification of each data base member (i.e.: home phone, cell phone, e-mail, pager, etc.)
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) must maintain the ability to create notification lists across department lines as well as prioritizing and terminating all messages.

- Ability to create “pre-canned” messages to use in routine notification situations

External (public) notification

- Ability to make 6,000 notifications per hour, with acknowledgments.
- Front-end capability and authority for three County departments to initiate notification and maintain databases as determined by their business needs.
- Ability to graphically determine (on screen, drawing polygon on GIS maps) areas of notification, with automatic phone number lookup and dialing.
- Ability to routinely update telephone number database.
- Capability of allowing key personnel to access and operate internal and external notification systems through off-site methods (i.e.: intranet, internet, etc.)

It is recommended that once a qualified vendor has been selected through the Request for Proposals process that the Interim Purchasing Agent be given the authority to enter into an agreement for these services. It may also be necessary to move existing funds into fixed asset accounts. If this is necessary, it is recommended that the Auditor-Controller be given the authority to make these transfers of existing funds. The acquisition of this software and equipment will greatly enhance the County’s ability to notify key stakeholders as well as the public of a terrorist and/or natural events, emergencies and disasters.

POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of this action would further the Board priorities of a safe, healthy community, effective partnerships and efficient delivery of public services.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.