



City of La Quinta

CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE: March 3, 2015

ITEM TITLE: APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF AUDIO/VISUAL/CONTROL SYSTEM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING

AGENDA CATEGORY:

BUSINESS SESSION:

CONSENT CALENDAR: 10

STUDY SESSION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve replacement of the audio/visual/control system in the City Council Chambers and appropriate funding for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from Unassigned Equipment Replacement Funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The existing audio/visual/control system in the City Council Chambers is over 20 years old and replacement parts are no longer available.
- Replacement of the system will provide better sound and viewing and will include updated video recording and web streaming technology.
- The new system will allow for future hardware and software upgrades.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The project cost is estimated at \$200,000. The cost breakdown is as follows:

- Video System – \$65,000
- Audio System – \$45,000
- Control System – \$40,000
- Programming/Installation – \$40,000

Adequate funding is available from the Unassigned Equipment Replacement Funds, which can only be used for equipment replacement purposes. The City spends approximately \$16,500 annually to film City Council meetings. The updated system would also include a new service contract to film and stream the meetings online for \$8,400. This is an annual savings of over \$8,000.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The audio/video/control system for the Council Chambers was installed in 1993 when the building was constructed. At that time, the Chamber was outfitted with the most up-to-date technology available. Over the past 22 years, the equipment has degraded and shown signs of normal wear and tear. Repair of the system is futile as replacement parts are scarce or non-existent.

A company that specializes in corporate audiovisual systems was contacted to discuss the equipment challenges. They made several recommendations for consideration. These include:

- Replace the “Jumbotron” projection system with flat panel LCD monitors and add a large touchscreen monitor along the south “voting” wall, and replace the Council seat display monitors.
- Replace the audio system to include microphones that turn on and off automatically and add additional sound reinforcement speakers along the west wall facing the audience.
- Add wireless media connectivity so visual presentations can be given wirelessly from any device, anywhere in the chamber.
- Add mounted cameras and a web-streaming service that films the meeting and streams it live or on-demand on the Internet. The service creates “bookmarks” for each agenda item during the meeting so that viewers can watch the entire meeting, or just specific agenda items.
- Replace and configure the control system to operate the new equipment.

If approved, staff will conduct a request for proposals for services and will plan the installation during a time that will not affect City Council meetings.

ALTERNATIVES:

As the current audio/video/control system is outdated and parts are no longer available, staff does not recommend an alternative.

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Report approved for submission by: Frank J. Spevacek, City Manager