



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Fire

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 1, 2026

Re: Boone County Joint Communications Interoperable Radio System Cooperative Agreement

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to sign a cooperative agreement between Boone County Joint Communications (BCJC) and the City of Columbia (Fire Department) for participation in the Boone County Joint Communications Interoperable Radio System. The agreement provides for Boone County to procure and transfer ownership of 71 portable radios, 55 mobile radios, and 32 pagers to the Columbia Fire Department to support the transition from the legacy VHF radio system to a countywide interoperable 800 MHz Project 25 (P25) Phase 2 radio system. The value of the equipment and funding provided under this agreement is approximately \$1,282,568.00.

The agreement establishes the terms for the City's use of the BCJC radio system, including operational standards, programming requirements, interoperability compliance, and maintenance responsibilities. The County funding associated with the procurement of the radios is one-time funding, and the City will be responsible for future maintenance, replacement, and additional equipment costs.

Discussion

Boone County Joint Communications is implementing a countywide interoperable 800 MHz radio system designed to improve communications among public safety agencies throughout Boone County and enhance responder safety and operational coordination. BCJC intends to operate the current VHF radio system concurrently with the new 800 MHz system during a transition period to allow agencies sufficient time to migrate to the new platform.

Under the agreement, Boone County will procure and transfer ownership of 71 portable radios, 55 mobile radios, and 32 pagers to the Columbia Fire Department. These radios are dual-band capable and compliant with Project 25 (P25) Phase 2 interoperability standards.

BCJC will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the system infrastructure, interoperability templates, and system upgrades. The City will be responsible for ongoing maintenance, replacement, insurance, and any future radio purchases or accessory costs associated with subscriber radios.



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The agreement will remain in effect perpetually unless terminated by either party with a minimum 365-day notice. If the City terminates the agreement within five years of the County-funded radio procurement, the radios purchased with County funds must be returned to BCJC.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Boone County will fund the procurement, there is no direct short-term fiscal impact to the City.

Long-Term Impact: City is responsible for ongoing maintenance, repair, replacement and related accessories or upgrades. These costs are already factored into the Fire regular operation budget each fiscal year.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the Boone County Joint Communications Interoperable Radio System Cooperative Agreement between Boone County, Missouri and the City of Columbia (Fire Department) for participation in the countywide interoperable 800 MHz radio system and acceptance of radio equipment.