

# 2021-2022 Budget Preparation - Regular Additional Service Request

**Sheriff**

**Emergency Management**

ASR # 2021- 6399

**Fund** 377

**Cost Cente** 377100

**Originator:** John Gargett

**Expenditure Type:** One-Time

**Add'l FTE**

**Add'l Space**

**Priority** 1

**Name of Request:** *WC Integrated Public Safety Radio System Phase I-B*

<i>Costs:</i>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Object Description</b>	<b>2021 Amount</b>	<b>2022 Amount</b>
	4337.0002	Other	(\$50,000)	\$0
	7410	Equipment-Capital Outlay	\$237,395	\$0
	8301.332	Operating Transfer In	(\$187,395)	\$0
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**1. Description of Request:**

**a) Describe the proposed activity or service, and indicate whether it is a higher or lower priority than existing services in your department budget.**

This ASR represents an expansion of the first phase of the Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System. In 2020, new backbone microwaves were installed at Mount Constitution, Post Point, Lummi Island and Point Roberts. The 2020 work strengthened and repaired the problems with Whatcom Counties radio network; however it did not provide redundancy for the backbone. This ASR will install microwave redundancy through the installation of an additional microwave from the Point Roberts Tower, to the leased tower at H Street, and an additional microwave link to the CBP Tower in Blaine. The link to the CBP Tower in Blaine will provide the primary redundancy for the Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System backbone.

**b) Who are the primary customers for this service?**

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Whatcom County Fire Departments and Districts, Whatcom County Public Works Agencies, WhatComm and Prospect, Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, and the City of Bellingham. The improved radio system and communications will enhance response and safety for all citizens in Whatcom County.

**2. Describe the problem this request addresses and why Whatcom County needs to address it.**

Whatcom County has provided minimal to no maintenance of its radio equipment and infrastructure which resulted in failures of field unit communications for Law Enforcement and the Fire Service to receive pages, be able to communicate effectively with WhatComm911 and Prospect(fire dispatch), or to be able to communicate between field units. Whatcom County has assumed all responsibility for the radio systems within the County and is working under an Interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham as well as the Fire Agency Radio System (FARS) to design, manage and maintain the radio network.

**3. Options**

**a) What other options have you considered? Why is this the best option?**

There are no other options for this Additional Service Request that are cost effective. This represents the best and only option for Whatcom County to manage its existing radio infrastructure at a minimal cost.

**b) What are the specific cost savings? (Quantify)**

There are no specific cost savings in this Additional Service Request as the costs are the continuation of the minimum necessary work to strengthen the Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System backbone.

**4. Outcomes / Objectives**

**a) What outcomes will be delivered and when?**

The primary outcome of this Additional Service Request is that there will be redundancy for the Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio System backbone. The County will be able to manage necessary repairs and maintenance until a new radio system is completed.

**b) How will you know whether the outcomes happened?**

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The outcome of this ASR will be the installation of the additional microwaves to the fiber optic connection at CBP in Blaine which then connects to both WhatComm and Prospect dispatch centers.

### 5. Other Departments/Agencies

**a) Will this ASR impact other departments or agencies? If so, please identify the departments and/or agencies impacted and explain what the impact(s) will be.**

This Additional Service Request will ensure that there is no change to the current level of service in radio services for the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Whatcom County Fire Departments and Districts, WhatComm and Prospect, Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe as well as all Law Enforcement agencies in Whatcom County. Once installed, this ASR will provide more reliable service.

**b) If another department or agency is responsible for part of the implementation, name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for.**

There is no other agency or person responsible for this continuing ongoing radio maintenance other than the Public Safety Radio Manager within the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management.

### 6. What is the funding source for this request?

Whatcom County Capital Request

The Whatcom County capital fund dollar request will be \$330,567 for 2021 and \$28,800 per year thereafter for 7 years.

Fire Agency Radio Service (FARS)

The FARS Chair has agreed that they will contribute to both the capital cost and to their portion of the annual lease cost for the radio tower. The amount of the capital will be determined by their portion of the build, but should be in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range and their annual tower lease payment should be in the range of \$14,400 to \$19,200 per year.