



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Adopt resolution awarding contract for cellular phone services to Verizon Wireless.
MEETING DATE: December 20, 2000
PREPARED BY: Janet L. Hamilton, Management Analyst

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council adopt a resolution awarding a two-year contract for cellular phone services to Verizon Wireless, under the terms of their contract with the City of Stockton, California, at a cost of \$2300 for new equipment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In March 2000, staff began reviewing cellular phone services provided by AT&T, Verizon, Nextel, and Pac Bell. The criteria used in this evaluation were the strength of the signal and cost. The evaluation was conducted by Captain Mauch, Lt. Noblett, and Lt. Monroe of the Police Department and Janet Hamilton of the City Manager's office. The City was given test equipment for use by City employees during the test period. It became apparent that the strength of Verizon's signal in this area is stronger than the others tested and that the per minute cost of airtime is less. Based on this evaluation and testing, staff is recommending Verizon Wireless. Under this plan, the City will receive the required equipment at no charge and will only be responsible for the tax due (\$13.95) on the suggested retail value per unit. Approximately 160 units are needed to replace the existing AT&T phones for a total cost of \$2300.

Since our November meeting, AT&T representatives have met with the City Manager and staff in order to present changes to their original proposal and to offer additional incentives. After evaluating the proposal, staff again recommends contracting with Verizon Wireless for cellular telephone service. It should be noted that the City has used AT&T for approximately six years. Given the City's evaluation criteria, it appears reasonable to utilize an alternative vendor for two years.

AT&T continues to make technical improvements in their system and may provide the better choice in the future, at which time we will re-evaluate their service as well as those of other vendors.

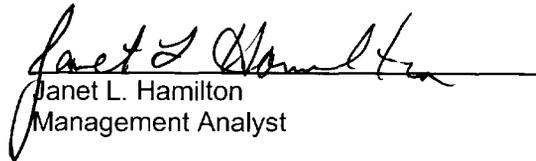
APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

In July, 1998, the City of Stockton awarded a contract to Verizon Wireless (formerly AirTouch Cellular) to provide cellular phone service. Lodi Municipal Code Section 3.20.070 provides that bidding may be dispensed with when the City Council determines that the purchase or method of purchase would be in the best interest of the City. By using the City of Stockton's bid, the City of Lodi saves the expense of the bidding process. It is, therefore, staff's recommendation that the City Council grant staff authority to contract with Verizon Wireless.

FUNDING: Individual Departments will bear the cost of tax on each unit, provided free of charge by Verizon Wireless.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet L. Hamilton
Management Analyst

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-236

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AWARDING THE
CONTRACT FOR CELLULAR PHONE SERVICES TO
VERIZON WIRELESS

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WHEREAS, Lodi Municipal Code, §3.20.070, authorizes dispensing with bids for purchases of supplies, services or equipment when it is in the best interest of the City to do so; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed cellular phone services provided by AT&T, Verizon, Nextel, and Pac Bell, evaluating the cost and quality of the signal; and

WHEREAS, the per minute cost of airtime provided by Verizon Wireless is less than that provided by the other vendors; and

WHEREAS, based on the evaluation and testing, staff recommends Verizon Wireless, which will provide all equipment at no charge and only requires that the City be responsible for the payment of the tax due on the suggested retail value of each unit; and

WHEREAS, in July 1998, the City of Stockton awarded a contract to Verizon Wireless to provide cellular phone service, and the City of Lodi can piggyback on Stockton's contract, thus saving the expense of the bidding process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi hereby authorizes staff to piggyback on the City of Stockton's contract with Verizon Wireless, and further authorizes expending a cost of \$2,300.00 to cover the payment of the tax due on the suggested retail value of each unit.

Dated: December 20, 2000

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2000-236, which was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held December 20, 2000 by the following vote:

- AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Howard, Land, Pennino and Mayor Nakanishi
- NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None
- ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None
- ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None


SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk