
Sponsor: Emergency Communications

Meeting Date: 10/3/2023

Title: Emergency Communications Dispatch Center Remodel

File Number: 2023-393

Background and Rationale:

The approved 2019-20 Capital Improvement Program authorized \$980,000 to remodel the Emergency Communications Dispatch Center. The cost for the remodeling the Dispatch Center has increase by \$800,000 due to supply chain issues and inflationary cost. The estimated new total to complete the remodel is \$1,780,000. The Director of Emergency Communications recommends using \$800,000 from the Emergency Communications Equipment Fund Balance to cover the additional cost. Emergency Communications is requesting board approval to use additional funds from the equipment fund balance for the remodel.

The current floor plan at the Emergency Communications Dispatch Center was designed in 2005 when the facility was constructed and has not changed significantly in 18 years. The current remodel is necessary to replace aging workstations and to accommodate changes to call handling processes that have evolved since the center opened in 2007. The remodel was originally scheduled to occur in the fall of 2020 but was delayed due to the worldwide pandemic and civil unrest. The remodel will update the network wiring, include a new rubberized flooring, noise reduction panels, add an additional seven workstations (increasing from 33 to 40) to account for anticipated growth, and modernize the dispatch furniture with a focus on the ergonomics during the 12+ hour work shifts. The additional costs are inclusive of a temporary relocation plan during the remodel to assure continuity in dispatch services with no interruptions. The Ramsey County Dispatch Policy Board is aware of the cost increase and no objections where noted. The Dispatch Center remodeling project is scheduled for early 2024.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the use of \$800,000 from the Emergency Communications Center Equipment Fund Balance to remodel the Emergency Communications Dispatch Center.
2. Authorize the County Manager to establish Emergency Communications Dispatch Center Remodel as a project account in the Emergency Communications Center budget.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to the agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provide the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Frethem

By: 
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board