



MEMO TO:

City Council

FROM:

John Marchione, Mayor

DATE:

October 18, 2011

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FROM THE CITY OF REDMOND'S 117 CABLE TELEVISION CAPITAL FUND TO UPGRADE REDMOND CITY TELEVISION AND THE LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER BOARDROOM VIDEO PRODUCTION AND PLAYBACK

SYSTEMS

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the expenditure of \$337,776 for an upgrade and replacement of various components including cameras, switchers, cabling, and digital video servers, as endorsed by the Public Administration and Finance Committee on September 26, 2011.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Jane Christensen, Deputy City Administrator 425-556-2107 Patrick Hirsch, Video Communications Manager 425-556-2439

III. DESCRIPTION:

Per its franchise agreements with Comcast and Frontier Communications, the City collects and maintains funds for the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of capital equipment and operating materials for its government access television operations Redmond City Television (RCTV). These funds have been collected for use by other approved community partners including the Lake Washington School District (LWSD), who operates and maintains educational access programming on its own cable television channel through an agreement with the City of Redmond. Key camera, video switching, and playback/cablecasting equipment at both locations, in some cases, are far in excess of recommended standard replacement cycles (6 years). These systems include LWSD robotic cameras and switcher (10 years) and the RCTV City Council Chambers switcher (13 years). In addition, purchase of a new portable Mac laptop editing system is recommended for RCTV field use.

IV. IMPACT:

Replacement will assure continued reliable coverage of live and live-to-tape meetings, presentations, and community events using current industry standard technology.

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS:

There are no known time constraints.

VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

A. PAF Committee Memo: Proposed Redmond City Television and Lake Washington School District Capital Equipment Replacement Purchases

Jane Christensen, Deputy City Administrator

Date

Approved for Council Agenda

John Marchione, Mayor

10/12/11

Proposed Redmond City Television and Lake Washington School District Resource Center Capital Equipment Replacement Purchases

9/26/2011

Background:

Video production equipment at City Hall and the Lake Washington School District are nearing – or have exceeded – their recommended replacement schedules. In particular, the robotic pan/tilt/zoom (PTZ) camera systems deployed in Council Chambers (6 years) and LWSD Board Room (12 years) have exceeded their standard service life. In addition, both Trinity video switching consoles in each location are far in excess of the recommended 6 year service interval (13 years COR, 9 years LWSD) and need replacement.

Expanded editing duties at the City and further migration to hard media storage and playback (as opposed to traditional media such as tape and DVD) at both the City and LWSD require additional investment at this time. It should be noted that LWSD is in the process of providing 24/7 local origination of programming on their Comcast and Frontier access channels for the first time ever. Previously the District has shared channel space with programming from the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD). This change will require the acquisition of automated playback sources and controls similar to what the City has deployed for 15 years.

Requested Action:

Approval to purchase task and market appropriate equipment to meet the above identified needs. In particular:

A four camera Hitachi DK-Z50 PTZ camera system. This system is a direct replacement for the City's existing Hitachi HV-D15 PTZ and LWSD's aging Sony D-950 composite definition cameras, including a now industry standard upgrade to HD. (note: The City's current camera system will be redeployed for light use in the 4th floor RCTV studio)

Estimated cost: \$110,000 per system (x2)

Global Streams Globecaster HD video switching consoles. These units are direct replacement for both the City and LWSD's legacy Trinity switchers and will allow for migration of all current graphic archives.

Cost: 25,388 each (x2)

Coaxial cable rewire to all camera positions, both facilities. Replaces aging coax and provides one additional cable per camera for signal synchronization.

Estimated cost: \$3000 (x2)

New 360 Systems hard drive digital server/program player and automated playback control module for City of Redmond.

Estimated cost: \$22,000

New Apple MacBook Pro laptop editing computer for RCTV. Allows for remote editing during evenings and weekends as well as field recording/logging and graphics creation.

Estimated cost: \$9000

Lake Washington School District Resource Center 24/7 local origination/cablecasting system. Accounts for necessary components to originate, schedule and maintain adequate signal integrity including but not limited to: Hard drive storage and playback (with network router), scheduling/compiling software and host computer, live/playback and remote source switching, standard District and emergency readerboard software, audio source output control and all required cabling, connectors, power conditioning and back up.

Estimated costs: Not to exceed \$30,000

TOTAL Estimated Expenditures: \$337, 776

Funding Background:

The City collects PEG capital underwriting fees (or *Pass Through Fees*) from Comcast and Frontier at a rate of .35 cents per month, per subscriber. This fee was reduced from one dollar per month, per subscriber by Council vote in April, 2011. This fee is intended to underwrite capital service costs related to cable television facilities and production for the City and approved designees, including the Lake Washington School District. *PEG fees are currently prohibited from use in operations*.

As of 2nd quarter, 2011, the City maintains a PEG fee balance of approximately 1.2 million dollars. This amount is captured in the City's 117 account.

Summary:

Staff recommends that current PEG fee reserves be applied to address aging and expanded capital needs at the City and Lake Washington School District Resource Center.