

WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

Mayor Rowan called the special meeting to order at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Fire Chief Ron Kramer, Ambulance Chief Jeff Hilsgen, Clerk Deb Kramer

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss application for a FEMA grant for fire department radios.

Chief Ron Kramer reported that Rockville Fire Department contacted him about a FEMA grant application for new NFPA approved radios. At this time, it's not known if or when the new radios would be mandated. The cost is \$11,000 per radio. Rockville asked if Watkins wanted to go in on the application with other area departments, as the application would have a better chance of getting funded as a group. As of now, there are six departments interested. Ron contacted the ambulance service to see if they would be interested in this as well. It's a 5% matching grant. The ambulance service has 5 radios. The fire department has 12. The cost of new radios for the fire department would be \$132,000. The 5% match would be \$6,600. The cost for the grant writer is \$3,375. If there are 8 entities participating, it would cost each one \$422 for the grant writer. If the grant is not funded, the city would be out that fee. Ron noted the current radios work fine. At this time, they cost about \$3,500 each. Ron noted he was undecided on the matter, but didn't want to find out in five years the new radios will be mandated and that the city could have applied for a grant. The new radios would be compatible with the current system used by Meeker County. Ron noted the last update on radios was in 2004. Ron didn't know the time line of getting radios if the grant were to be funded.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE PARTICIPATING IN THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor