



COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY

DATE: July 6, 2020

TO: Mayor, City Council, City Administrator

FROM: Chief Ed Delmore, Gulf Shores Police Department

ISSUE: Approve revised lease agreement with ATC Sequoia LLC (originally known as Verizon Wireless Personal Communications LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless) and authorize execution of same.

BACKGROUND: Baldwin County maintains a trunked digital 700 MHz radio system that most police, fire and EMS entities use for communications. This system uses multiple sites throughout the county to provide coverage, much like a cell phone network. The closest existing sites to us are atop a condo in Orange Beach (our primary site) and on a tower in Magnolia Springs. Last year, I began lobbying the county for at least one additional site for this network in Gulf Shores due to steady degradation in coverage, lack of redundancy, and projected lack of resources on the existing Orange Beach site during a natural disaster. After the county conducted some studies with Motorola, they agreed and decided that two new radio sites were actually needed in Gulf Shores. One of the new sites will be on the Verizon tower behind the Police Department, and the other will be on Fort Morgan Road at Veterans Rd. The county is spending around one million dollars on this project, and there is no cost to the city. There are also no long term cost implications for the city - there are no strings attached. We are simply leveraging our franchise agreement on the tower behind the PD to allow the county to place some of their equipment on the tower, which will save them the costs of a long term tower space lease. There will still be plenty of space on our designated area on the tower for anything the city may want to place there in the future. The document that Chief Delmore forwarded is an updated agreement with the tower company to reflect the equipment that needs to be added to the tower. This is a \$0 agreement since the city does not pay lease fees pursuant to the franchise agreement. This is an absolute win-win situation for the city and will be huge for both the PD and the Fire Department.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval is recommended.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: None

RELATED ISSUES: Previous Council approval of original lease agreement with Verizon Wireless Personal Communications LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless and now known as ATC Sequoia LLC

ATTACHMENTS: Draft Resolution

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

STAFF CONTACT: Chief Ed Delmore
Officer Seth Fuller, GSPD Telecommunications/IT Coordinator