

MEMORANDUM

To: Ashe County Board of Commissioners

From: Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill

Date: October 31, 2017

Subject: Board Approval for Piggyback Exception to Purchase (1) VHF Public Safety Simulcast System

Requested/Proposed

The Board is requested to authorize the piggyback exception as outlined in North Carolina General Statutes 143-129(g)(3) for the purposes of purchasing a three site VHF Public Safety Simulcast Voting System.

Background

On April 3, 2017, the Emergency Management Coordinator along with Communications Director Phil Howell, Pond Mountain Fire Chief Lee Denny, Creston Fire Chief Junior Seatz, and Ashe County Rescue Squad Captain Rob Blevins provided information to the board concerning the need for both a new communications system and the addition of a new site. During budget deliberations, the commissioners opted to include funding for financing a new system over a 5-year period.

Review

State law allows local governments to purchase without a separate bidding procedure from any contractor that has, within the past 12 months contracted to furnish the item to (1) federal government or any federal agency, (2) the State of North Carolina or any agency or political subdivision of that state, if the contractor is willing to extend the same or more favorable price and other terms to the local government. The Board must award the contract at a regularly scheduled meeting and notice of the intent to award the contract without bidding must be published no less than 10 days prior to the meeting at which the contract is awarded.

On January 6, 2017, the County of Burke, NC contracted with Wireless Communications for a three site VHF Public Safety Simulcast System. Wireless Communications has agreed to extend to Ashe County the same pricing and terms as was given to Burke County. The total cost for the three site system is \$440,642.52.

Recommendation

Staff requests the Board award the contract to Wireless Communications in the amount of \$440,642.52 under the piggyback exception authorized in General Statute 143-129(g). Sufficient funds are available for financing this purchase.