

AGENDA ITEM 8.O.

RE: Approval of Laredo College Police Dispatch Consoles. Possible Closed Session Discussion as Permitted by Government Code §551.076

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of two Avtec Scout E8 dispatch consoles for the Laredo College Police Department from Motorola Solutions, a local vendor listed on the BuyBoard cooperative purchasing program. This investment will significantly enhance the department's communications infrastructure and allow for seamless interoperability with regional and federal law enforcement partners via V-TAC radio channels.

The total project cost is \$157,826.73, of which \$134,857.13 is covered by grant funding. The remaining \$22,969.06 is requested from the College's institutional fund balance, consistent with a prior board-approved initiative to modernize the department's communications system.

BACKGROUND: In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the use of institutional fund balance to initiate a comprehensive upgrade of the Laredo College Police Department's communications system. At that time, the department identified critical gaps in its emergency response capabilities, including the inability to communicate directly with other public safety agencies due to outdated analog radio systems and the absence of a professional dispatch console.

The proposed upgrade was part of a strategic plan to align with regional interoperability standards and improve the College's readiness to respond to high-risk incidents. The need for such improvements was echoed during a regional safety roundtable hosted at the Ft. McIntosh Campus in June 2022, where law enforcement and public safety leaders emphasized the importance of training, funding, and especially communication.

The current request reflects the next phase of implementation—now expanded to include the purchase of two Avtec Scout E8 dispatch consoles (one per campus). The system integrates with both conventional and P25 digital radio systems and provides dispatchers with real-time control of radio channels, enhancing communication, coordination, and situational awareness.

While the system allows for telephone and 911 integration in future configurations, the current scope is focused exclusively on radio communications. The department maintains a dedicated emergency phone line, and local 911 calls originating from campus can be redirected to the College's dispatch center by the Laredo Police Department as needed.

The new consoles will also integrate with the department's Records Management System (RMS) and Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform and will fully support real-time coordination with the following agencies:

- Laredo Police Department
- Laredo Fire Department
- Laredo Utilities Department
- Webb County Sheriff's Office

- U.S. Border Patrol
- Webb County Constable's Offices
- Texas Department of Public Safety

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

The total project cost is:

Funding Source	Amount
Federal Grant (No. 5154501)	\$134,857.13
Laredo College Fund Balance – Equipment Account	\$22,969.06
Total	\$157,826.73

Only the fund balance portion of \$22,969.06 requires current Board action. Procurement details and equipment specifications may be reviewed in closed session under Texas Government Code §551.076.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President

Dr. David V. Arreazola, Vice President of Compliance and Risk Management/Interim Vice President of Student Success & Enrollment

Mr. Jose Hernandez, Chief of Police