

Consider approval of purchase of district-wide digital radio repeaters

1. Background:

The current district-wide digital radio communication system was installed back in 2021. That project supported Transportation, Southwest ISD Police Department and both Legacy and Southwest High Schools. There are still a number of locations throughout the District that experience major coverage issues (i.e., limited or no communication) due to having older analog radio systems. The interior of our campus buildings present coverage issues in being able to reach out to the Southwest ISD Police Department during emergencies.

Southwest ISD staff is recommending purchasing digital repeaters for district-wide communication as it provides clearer radio transmissions between campuses and the Southwest ISD Police Department. District staff vetted several local vendors for possible solutions to improve district-wide communication. Quotes were obtained from BearCom, Industrial Communications and Voceon. BearCom offered the best overall value for Southwest ISD and was the original vendor that installed the 2021 repeater project.

Bear Comm	Industrial Communications	Voceon
\$171,778.64	\$246,546.78	\$35,547.84

2. Process:

BearCom is a member of the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative.

3. Fiscal Impact:

The purchase and installation of the digital district-wide communication system for campuses will cost \$171,778.64. The funds for this project will come from the TEA awarded Safety and Facilities Enhancement (SAFE) Cycle 1 Grant.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve BearCom for the purchase and installation of the district-wide communication system for campuses at a cost of \$171,778.64.

5. Required:

Board action.