

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	February 6, 2023
Action Required:	Purchase, donate, and install new radio equipment for Charlottesville Area Transit
Presenter:	Garland Williams, Director of Transit
Staff Contacts:	Garland Williams, Director of Transit
Title:	Appropriating funds for the purchase of Charlottesville Area Transit radio equipment - \$237,000 (1 of 2 readings)

Background

In FY2022, the Regional Public Service Radio System upgraded the emergency communication system to a new Interoperable Radio Structure with expanded coverage. The update of the regional radio system required a number of city departments to replace their outdated legacy communication equipment. The City of Charlottesville selected radio equipment models that do not meet the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Buy America guidelines; therefore, Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) cannot apply any federal FTA funding for the purchase or installation of new radio equipment to upgrade to the new emergency communication system.

CAT is the last city department that must replace its radio equipment before the old legacy communication system stops working. Without the ability to apply federal funding to the purchase of new radio equipment, CAT will need the city to purchase, donate, and install new radio equipment in order for the transit system to be able to communicate with other city and regional agencies through the emergency communication system. The total funding need to complete this communication upgrade is \$237,000.

Discussion

Annually CAT receives federal funding for operations and for the purchase of capital items that are allowable under the FTA Buy America guidelines. The purchase of radio equipment for CAT is a special circumstance, but the ongoing maintenance of the radio equipment can be funded with federal funding.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Community Engagement

CAT will follow the guidelines of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in upgrading its radio equipment.

Budgetary Impact

The City will allocate \$237,000 to purchase, donate, and install new radio equipment for CAT

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City of Charlottesville purchase new radio equipment and complete CAT's migration to the new emergency communication system by donating the equipment and funds for installation.

Alternatives

No motion or other action is required if City Council declines to implement the staff recommendation.

Attachments

None