

NGEN Operations Board

NGEN Operations Board Action Item 23-003

Date: Nov. 16, 2023

Presented by: Alex Zheng **On behalf of:** County of Monterey ITD

Request: Approve, and recommend the NGEN Executive Board to approve, the FY2024/25 NGEN Capital Project: NGEN coverage improvement using broadband and Motorola SmartConnect

Budget (Fund 405) for an estimated project cost of \$2.74 million total and \$513,000 per year pending approval of NGEN Capital Fee schedule.

Funding Source: NGEN Capital Fee (pending approval by NGEN Executive Board)

Summary/Discussion:

NGEN system has serious County-wide in-building coverage issues, and outdoor coverage gaps around unincorporated areas including north Salinas, Bolsa Knolls, Prunedale, Pajaro, San Benancio, Carmel Valley Village, Green Bridge, King City, Bryson, San Ardo Oil field, and Big Sur areas. This project will implement Motorola SmartConnect, which will provide seamlessly switching between NGEN system and broadband network including LTE cellular networks and WiFi, for supported Motorola mobiles and portables. It will help areas where there is LTE coverage by FirstNet or other providers, and where LMR coverage is poor or non-existent. First responders will be able to maintain critical LMR features with improved in-building and outdoor coverage. Based on a most recent NGEN radio inventory, 365 Motorola APX-NEXT radios and 1580 Motorola APX-8000/8500 radios can benefit from the project. Note that APX-NEXT radio can integrate with both LTE and WiFi, while Motorola APX-8000 and APX-8500 can only integrate with WiFi.

The estimated project cost is about \$2.74 million. Motorola can offer a 7-year payment plan. It is estimated by County staff that yearly payment is about \$513K, based on an interest rate of 8%. It is requested that the project funded through the requested NGEN Capital Fund budget in FY24-25, for a total of \$513K, pending approval and implementation of NGEN Capital Fee collection of \$850K per year, effective FY 24-25. In addition, County staff applied for FY 24-25 UASI grant to provide supplementary funding for the project.

Other Agency Involvement:

County staff recommends the Executive Board approve this action and County staff continue to provide operational status updates to the Operations Board.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated revenue collected in FY 24-25 through the proposed NGEN Capital Fee is approx. \$850,000 as recommended by this Board. This Capital Fee is pending approval by the NGEN Executive Board. The estimated project cost is about \$2.74 million. Motorola can offer a 7-year payment plan, with a yearly payment of approx. \$513K. The remainder of the Capital Fee would be held in the

NGEN Capital Fund or used as directed by the NGEN Executive Board. The NGEN Capital Fee would still be billed in full if the UASI grant is awarded.


Effect(s) of Failure to Approve Request and/or caveats: NGEN system will not be operating effectively due to lack of coverage which can lead to officer safety issues.

_____ **Operations Board Action** _____
Modification to requested action: Yes ___ No ___

No action. The Board will table this item until January 18, 2024 meeting. County staff is asked to bring back an updated proposal, and with NGEN O&M cost estimate for each NGEN agency.

Vote Date 11/16/2023

Motion by None 2nd n/a Approved: Yeas n/a Nays n/a

DocuSigned by:


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/s/ Chair Dave Hober

Yeas:

Nays: