

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mike Gesme, PEG Access Coordinator
SUBJECT: PEG Access HD Upgrade
MEETING DATE: November 7, 2017

BACKGROUND

The City recently negotiated cable franchise agreements with two providers – Mediacom and Hiawatha Broadband Communications (HBC). HBC is new to Cannon Falls, and has begun connecting homes and businesses to their services as they build out their network throughout the city. HBC will carry our PEG access channel in high definition (HD), while Mediacom will continue in standard definition for the time being.

These franchise agreements include grants for PEG access equipment. Much of our current broadcast and presentation equipment in the cable studio and Council Chambers is original from when City Hall moved to the current location. I recommend we replace the equipment in phases, beginning with this project to upgrade our channel to HD. This will enable us to provide our local programming to customers of both cable companies, and improve broadcast quality.

The equipment to be upgraded includes our video server, which controls the recording and playback schedule, our production system, which is used for live programming, and our Council Chambers cameras. The full list of components includes:

- Tightrope Media Systems Flex2 Cablecast Server
- Tricaster TC1 Production System*
- Two (2) Newtek PTZ NDI Cameras
- Blackmagic Smart Videohub CleanSwitch 12x12
- APC NetShelter Quiet Rack Enclosure
- APC Smart-UPS Power Supply
- Misc. accessories, monitors, parts, and installation supplies

*includes \$5,000 trade-in discount, available through 11/30/17

Equipment estimate:	\$ 48,000
15% contingency:	<u>7,200</u>
Total:	\$ 55,200

Funding would come from the cable television fund. Installation will be handled in-house.

The Cable Commission has reviewed the proposed equipment and recommends approval.

Once this core upgrade is complete, I will put together recommendations for upgrades to the Council Chambers, studio, and remote broadcasts.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

I respectfully request a motion to approve the HD upgrade project, at a cost not to exceed \$55,200.