

**TO:** MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** NEIL JENSEN, City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2576 In support of Goodhue County ARPA funds being utilized for the Fire Department, First Responder, and EMS mobile and portable radio purchases.

**MEETING DATE:** September 21, 2021

**BACKGROUND**

Goodhue County has been allotted approximately \$9 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding. The Goodhue County Board is discussing priority spending for the allotted money and have been looking at many different areas of the budget to spend the funds. The radios that the small towns in Goodhue County use are all discontinued and are not serviceable. This type of spending serves all of Goodhue County except Red Wing.

The cost to purchase these radios run approximately \$5,000 each or \$1,112,000 in total. Cannon Falls would need 47 portable and 15 mobile radios for the 2 department (EMS and Fire).

This request from the county would go a long way in providing funding for radios for the rural Goodhue County cities. These radios would last another 15+ years.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Please consider Resolution 2576 supporting Goodhue County ARPA funds being used for portable and mobile radios in Goodhue County cities.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Please approve Resolution 2576 supporting Goodhue County ARPA funds being used for portable and mobile radios in Goodhue County cities.

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS  
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2576**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOODHUE COUNTY ARPA FUNDS BEING  
UTILIZED FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRST RESPONDER, AND EMS MOBILE AND  
PORTABLE RADIO PURCHASES**

**WHEREAS:** The Federal Government Passed the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) in March 2021 to assist with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS:** ARPA provides \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments; and

**WHEREAS:** Goodhue County has been allotted roughly \$9 million of ARPA funds; and

**WHEREAS:** The Goodhue County Board has discussed priority spending of allotted ARPA funds such as County solid waste debt, broadband, public safety equipment, housing, mental health, and frontline worker bonuses; and

**WHEREAS:** With the exception of the City of Red Wing, all out-County fire, 1<sup>st</sup> responder, and ambulance services who operate on the County's radio system have discontinued subscriber radios; and

**WHEREAS:** The portable and mobiles radios were discontinued December 31, 2019 leaving no available software or firmware updates; and

**WHEREAS:** The radios have and will continue to fail one by one until funding for replacements are secured; and

**WHEREAS:** Emergency Communication need to be reliable, resilient, and mission critical when in the hands of public safety; and

**WHEREAS:** The radios were originally purchased with State and Federal grants to support the critical fire and emergency medical services (EMS); and

**WHEREAS:** The cost to purchase replacement radios are between roughly \$5,000; and

**WHEREAS:** Below is a list of fire, 1<sup>st</sup> responders, and ambulance services and the number of replacement radios needed:

*Cannon Falls Fire: 34 Portables, 11 Mobiles*

*Cannon Falls Ambulance: 13 Portables, 4 mobiles*

*Goodhue Fire Dept: 14 Portables, 10 Mobiles*

*Kenyon Fire Dept: 9 Portables, 9 Mobiles*

*Pine Island Fire Dept: 29 Portables, 13 Mobiles*  
*Wanamingo Fire Dept: 15 Portables, 9 Mobiles*  
*Zumbrota Fire Dept: 21 Portables, 9 Mobiles*  
*Zumbrota Ambulance: 31 Portables, 4 Mobiles*

**WHEREAS:** The total cost to purchase replacement radios would be roughly \$1,112,000; and

**WHEREAS:** Local governments are financially limited to come up with coordinated funding to purchase all the radios simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS:** County ARPA funds present unique timing to purchase all, or a portion of the needed radios for all out-County fire, 1<sup>st</sup> responder, and ambulance services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:** The Cannon Falls City Council requests that the Goodhue County Commissioners set mobile & portable radio purchasing for County Fire & EMS Agencies as a priority with allotted ARPA funds.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.**

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS**

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John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator