



Department of County Management

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**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

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Budget Office

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TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Christian Elkin, Principal Budget Analyst

DATE: August 24, 2011

SUBJECT: General Fund Contingency request of \$1,354,755 for the Sheriff's Office to fund 656 emergency communication radios and associated equipment (Budget Modification MCSO-01)

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The Sheriff's Office<sup>1</sup> is requesting a General Fund contingency appropriation of \$1,354,755 for the replacement and programming of 656 emergency radios countywide. The radio replacement is needed for 3 reasons:

1. Motorola stopped supporting our current radios in June of 2010.
2. The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that all public radio systems using 25kHz technology (the county's current technology) must migrate to 12.5 kHz technology by January 2013.
3. The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) is in the process of moving from an analog to a digital platform requiring new and upgraded radio equipment.

The Board will be briefed on August 30, 2011 prior to the funding request.

Because this request was earmarked by the Chair and the Board in the General Fund contingency during the FY 2012 budget process, funding this request meets the criteria for acceptable use of contingency under our Financial Policies.

**General Fund Contingency Policy Compliance**

The Budget Office is required to inform the Board if contingency requests submitted for approval satisfy the general guidelines and policies for using the General Fund Contingency.

In particular,

- Criteria 1 states contingency requests should be for one-time-only purposes. If this is not judged to be one-time-only transition funding, the request essentially funds ongoing programs with one-time-only emergency contingency funds.

**The request is one-time-only.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Sheriff's Office is the lead agency who will be purchasing radios on behalf of the entire County. Other agencies include: Department of Community Justice, Transportation, Health Department, District Attorney's Office, Animal Services and Emergency Management.

- Criteria 2 Addresses emergencies and unanticipated situations.

**This request is not an emergency and was anticipated during the FY 2012 budget process.**

- Criteria 3 addresses items identified in Board Budget Notes.

**This item was not identified in the Budget Notes but was addressed specifically in the Chair's Budget Message, the Budget Director's Message and the General Fund Contingency program offer ([95000](#)).**