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Richmond Police Department
City Council Meeting
November 18, 2025

Encrypted Mobile Radios Purchase

Requested Action

- Approve purchase of up to 45 encrypted Motorola radios
 - Total cost not to exceed \$350,000 (includes 7.5% contingency)
 - Radios include mobile and portable units for vehicles, motorcycles, and new officers

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Financial Impact

- \$350,000 included in FY 2025–2026 Police Budget
 - Account: 01191021-400704

Why Additional Radios Are Needed

- Expand equipment for new police vehicles and motorcycle unit
 - Equip new officers
 - Ensure encryption compatibility with existing systems (RPD, Code Enforcement, CCRP/ROCK)
 - Meet regional interoperability standards through EBRCSA

Background: Regional Radio Systems

- Early 2000s: RPD led PHREKS consortium (Pinole, Richmond, Hercules, El Cerrito, Kensington, San Pablo)
 - 2007: EBRCSA formed Joint Powers Authority for regional interoperability
 - EBRCSA supports 43+ public agencies across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

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Why Encryption Is Required

- State DOJ Bulletin 20-09-CJIS mandates encryption of Criminal Justice Information (CJI) and Personal Identifiable Information (PII)
 - FBI CJIS Security Policy Sections 5.10 and 5.13 require encrypted transmission
 - Compliance deadline extended to 2023
 - Officer safety: prevents public monitoring of tactical radio traffic

Previous Council Actions

- Feb 7, 2023 – Approved purchase of 175 encrypted portable and 150 mobile radios
 - Dec 3, 2024 – Approved encrypted radios for Code Enforcement
 - Sept 23, 2025 – Approved encrypted radios for CCRP/ROCK
 - Nov 4, 2025 – Requested additional information on encryption (current item)

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System Limitations & Need for Upgrade

- PHREKS system (EDACS 800MHz) showed 29 deficiencies:
 - Poor in-building coverage
 - Inability to communicate with CHP/State Parks
 - Unreliable, lacking redundancy
 - Frequent system outages, busy signals
 - Officers forced to rely on fall-back systems (e.g., Nextel)

EBRCSA Benefits

- Regional interoperability during emergencies
 - Improved coverage and reliability (redundant system architecture)
 - \$51 million in grant funding to support system buildout
 - Discounted JPA pricing for Motorola radios

Cost Savings Through EBRCSA

- EBRCSA JPA pricing significantly reduces radio costs
 - Without EBRCSA membership: radios cost 25%–37.5% more
 - Projected cost without membership: \$437,500–\$481,250

Public & Media Access Considerations

- Encrypted channels protect sensitive information
 - Departments will communicate via PIO, dispatch, social media
 - EBRCSA defers all public communication to member agencies

Benefits of EBRCSA Membership

- 25–37.5% discount on Motorola equipment
 - Shared infrastructure reduces operating cost
 - Enables regional interoperability
 - Critical during large-scale emergencies

Why Encryption Is Required

- Mandated by DOJ Bulletin 20-09-CJIS
 - Required by CJIS Policy Sections 5.10 and 5.13
 - Protects CJI and PII
 - Supports Sanctuary City ordinance

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Consequences of Un-Encrypting Radios

- Non-compliant with federal and state law
 - Loss of ability to dispatch for El Cerrito PD
 - Delays sharing critical information
 - Significant officer safety risks

Operational Impacts

- Officers must rely on phone or secure laptop messaging
 - City has areas with limited/no cellular coverage
 - Increased risk of delayed responses

Staffing Impacts

- Manual relaying of CJI/PII requires more Dispatchers
 - Estimated 8 additional FTEs needed
 - Estimated cost: \$1.6M annually

Infrastructure Impacts

- Furniture redesign: ~\$100K
 - Cabling/electrical: ~\$25K
 - Workstations: ~\$15K
 - Recording equipment: ~\$50K

Training & Labor Impacts

- Complete retraining on new communication protocol
 - Training estimated at 9–18 months
 - Meet-and-confer required with RPOA and RPMA

Contract Impacts: El Cerrito PD

- Dispatch contract in effect through June 30, 2027
 - El Cerrito must decrypt OR Richmond must dual-dispatch
 - Costs unknown but likely significant

Legal Liability

- Higher risk of accidental broadcast of CJI/PII
 - Potential civil liability to the City

Impacts of Leaving EBRCSA

- Would require separate FCC frequency applications
 - Need for independent radio system buildout
 - Loss of discounted equipment pricing
 - Loss of regional interoperability

Conclusion & Recommendation

- Encryption is legally required and critical for officer safety
 - Radios needed for new vehicles, units, and personnel
 - EBRCSA membership ensures interoperability and cost savings
 - Staff recommends approving purchase of up to 45 encrypted radios