



Sale of 900 MHz Radio Licenses

Administrative Committee

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Background

- In 2014, a private firm, Anterix Inc., approached the FCC with the concept of creating a dedicated private data radio network using dedicated 900 MHz spectrum. To accomplish this, existing users in the 900 spectrum would need to be moved around or “rebanding” to create the necessary free spectrum.
- Agreeing with Anterix’s request, the FCC issued a “Report and Order” in July of 2020 mandating a nationwide realignment of the 900 MHz radio spectrum.
- Under this Report and Order, Anterix is required to work with incumbent users to facilitate the realignment of the spectrum. This work is done at Anterix’s expense.

Background

- The DART Radio system currently operates on three frequency bands:
 - 700 MHz (Police)
 - 800 MHz (Rail Operations)
 - 900 MHz (Bus Operations)
- Six of DARTs twelve 900 MHz radio frequencies fall within the realigned spectrum and must be transferred to Anterix under this mandate.
- Anterix has offered to purchase all 12 of DARTs 900 MHz frequencies in order to help other spectrum users in their rebanding efforts.

Current Status

- DART retained RF Engineering firm Lockard & White to represent the authority in negotiations with Anterix.
- Lockard & White performed a market value analysis of the DART spectrum.
- Anterix presented DART with a License Purchase Agreement with the negotiated amount of \$787,500.
 - This price exceeds anticipated amount based on market analysis.
 - License Purchase Agreement has been reviewed by DART Legal, DART Communications & Control System, and Lockard & White.

Agency Impact

- The Radio System Upgrade will migrate existing Bus Operations to the 800 MHz band using new spectrum recently licensed from the FCC. This project will commence in early 2022 with a target completion date of December 2023.
- Upon completion of the Radio Upgrade in December '23, ownership of the DARTs 900 MHz spectrum will be transferred to Anterix.
- The consolidation of Bus and Rail Operations to the 800 MHz band will reduce costs by eliminating the need to maintain a complete set of separate spare parts for the 900 MHz equipment (radios, antennas, base stations, etc.). In addition, Bus, Rail and Police will be on one radio system.

Requested Action

- Approve a resolution authorizing the President / Executive Director, or her designee, to execute an agreement to sell DART's existing 900 MHz radio spectrum to Anterix, Inc. for the sum of \$787,500.