REPORTS

Item No. 4 **Approval of Contract Over-Expenditure No. 1 for the Provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System and Services through a Cooperative Procurement with the Government of Manitoba – Purchasing Reference Number 153-2023**

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That Council approve an over-expenditure to the contract with Bell Mobility for the provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System (PSCS) and Services in the amount of $4,629,295.16 for a revised total contract amount, (including all over-expenditures) of $31,113,295.16 (GST and MRST extra) for the period of 12 years (2024-2036).

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Santos,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Approval of Contract Over-Expenditure No. 1 for the Provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System and Services through a Cooperative Procurement with the Government of Manitoba – Purchasing Reference Number 153-2023

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Eunson-Ross	M. Walczak	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Manitoba Public Safety Communications System (PSCS) is a public safety radio network. It is fully managed, monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year. It is built to be highly reliable. Bell Mobility built this network for the Government of Manitoba and is responsible for managing and updating it for the Province.

The City of Winnipeg decided to move to the PSCS to save money and get better service. The PSCS network will be used by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS), and Winnipeg Transit administration and buses for radio communication.

In July 2024, Council approved the PSCS award report. In June 2025, the City of Winnipeg signed an agreement to join the Manitoba PSCS. In March 2026, the City accepted radio infrastructure used by the WPS and WFPS.

This report requests that Winnipeg Transit bus operators also be added to the same service. Their existing radios must be replaced and adding them to the PSCS is the best option. PSCS offers easy communication with the WPS and WFPS. It also covers more of Winnipeg than the old radios. The extra service does create a contract over-expenditure. However, no new money is required. Funding is already available in Transit's approved budget for this project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approve an over-expenditure to the contract with Bell Mobility for the provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System (PSCS) and Services in the amount of $4,629,295.16 for a revised total contract amount, (including all over-expenditures) of $31,113,295.16 (GST and MRST extra) for the period of 12 years (2024-2036).

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

As the accumulated amount of the contract value, including this over-expenditure, exceeds ten million dollars ($10,000,000.00), the term of the contract exceeds five years, and the contract is for a purchase that obligates the City expenditures on future budgets, Council approval is required pursuant to the Purchasing Policy F1-003.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The City will make a one-time lump sum payment followed by quarterly payments under the contract.

This contract requires a minimum purchase of $4,629,295.16 plus taxes and a 12-year commitment.

Sufficient funding for the capital portion of this over-expenditure is available with the Council approved 2024 capital budgets for Transit's Radios and Intelligent Transportation Systems Replacement (Radios & ITS) project, and Transit's Administration and Control Centre Radio Replacement project.

The 2024 Radios & ITS capital budget includes funding from the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Provincial and Federal funding was confirmed by the Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services on November 16, 2022. The City's contribution will be funded by external debt. The 2024 Administration and Control Centre Radio Replacement budget amount will be funded from Transit's retained earnings.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Reliable radio communication is essential for the City of Winnipeg's public safety and related services.

On July 18, 2024, Council approved the award of contract for the provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System (PSCS) and services to Bell Mobility, at a total estimated cost of $26,484,000.00 (GST and MRST extra) for a period of 12 years (2024 - 2036) from the date of the award. It is important to note that all provincial agencies use the Manitoba PSCS, a service managed by Bell Mobility.

In June 2025, the City of Winnipeg entered the PSCS contract agreement for the provision of a PSCS and services to Bell Mobility used by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) and Winnipeg Transit Supervisors.

The Winnipeg Transit Service's existing bus radio and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) infrastructure is at end-of-life and end-of-support by the manufacturer. The ITS continues to experience performance, coverage, and reliability issues, resulting in degraded communication between Bus Operators and the Transit Control Centre. Some of the hardware equipment continue to experience maintenance issues and failures including the audio logging equipment. This, in turn, poses driver safety issues.

The existing PSCS agreement ensures reliable radio coverage within Winnipeg, including areas currently experiencing poor coverage from the existing Winnipeg Transit's radio system.

Winnipeg Transit's radio and ITS replacement project has been initiated to modernize and replace the outdated hardware, software, and associated communication equipment on transit buses as well as at the control centre, as part of Transit's broader initiative to upgrade the existing outdated communication system. The expected improvements with PSCS include fully digital and encrypted communications, better coverage and audio quality integration with modern Computer Aided Dispatch / Automatic Vehicle Location - CAD/AVL (dispatch + GPS) systems, as well as long-term vendor support. This agreement also ensures interoperability between Winnipeg Transit and other agencies such as the WPS and WFPS.

Bell Mobility is responsible for all maintenance support and upgrades of this P25 Network Infrastructure for the life of the contract. The City's agencies are responsible for purchasing their end-user equipment (i.e., two-way radios and accessories). The City owns and would continue to be responsible for the dispatch communication centers and some site infrastructure (such as heat ventilation air condition system, radio towers, etc.) at the three City-owned P25 Radio Sites.

Sufficient funding for the capital portion of this over-expenditure is available with the Council approved 2024 capital budgets for Transit's Radios and Intelligent Transportation Systems Replacement (Radios & ITS) project, and Transit's Administration and Control Centre Radio Replacement project. The 2024 Radios & ITS capital budget includes funding from the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Provincial and Federal funding was confirmed by the Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services on November 16, 2022. The City's contribution will be funded by external debt. The 2024 Administration and Control Centre Radio Replacement budget amount will be funded from Transit's retained earnings.

The recommendation to award a co-operative (collaborative) contract to Bell Mobility meets the City's procurement obligations. Bell Mobility is the only authorized provider of the Manitoba PSCS. There are demonstrated advantages of migrating to the Manitoba PSCS, including the ability to easily communicate and collaborate with other public safety entities already on the PSCS, the extension of the geographic coverage for the City's handheld and vehicle-installed radio equipment, and improved safety for members.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 1, 2026

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2026**

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	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 2,170,070				
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	2,170,070				
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants (Enter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - Enter Description Here					
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 124,622	$ 213,806	$ 210,536	$ 346,211	$ 342,624
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	42,550				
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 82,072	$ 213,806	$ 210,536	$ 346,211	$ 342,624
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	82,072	213,806	210,536	346,211	342,624
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: The Capital Expenditure Required represents the upfront payment for the total over-expenditure amount of $4,629,295.16 plus MRST and corporate interest, for the contract with Bell Mobility for the provision of a Public Safety Radio Communication System (PSCS) and Services. The revised contract amount, including all over-expenditures, is $31,113,295.16 plus MRST for the period of 12 years (2024-2036).

Funding for the over-expenditure is available in the capital budgets for Radios and Intelligent Transportation Systems Replacement Program (Project ID 4210001324, $1,712,069.53, includes Federal and Provincial contribution as part of the ICIP Program, the City's share is funded by external debt), and Administration and Control Centre Radio Replacement (Project ID 4210010724, $458,000, City funding source is Transit Retained Earnings); and the Operating Budget of Innovation Transformation Department, Transit-IT Division.

The Operating Budget impact consists of the annual payments amounts (including MRST) plus the interest expense from external borrowing (Direct Costs). The Incremental revenue/recovery consists of Corporate Interest overhead, being charged to the capital project. These amounts are included in the Department's annual operating budget submissions.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Purchasing Division, Corporate Finance Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

This report is in accordance with the Our Winnipeg 2045 Leadership and Good Governance Goal, through objective 3. Achieve community-responsive service delivery through an aligned, integrated, collaborative and results-oriented organizational culture.

And Policies: 1.1 Organizational Alignment, 1.2 Policy Implementation, and 1.21 Strategic Procurement – Utilize coordinated procurement strategies across government.

1.4 Integrated Knowledge and Resources – Coordinate inter-departmental systems, projects and resources, making the best use of internal and external expertise to better understand service needs, find the most appropriate solutions, optimize resources, and maximize community outcomes.

1.6 Results-Based Budgeting – Use this Plan as a foundation for municipal budget priorities to achieve integrated, intergenerational life-cycle planning that maximizes community return on investment.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the WCAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Innovation & Technology
Division: Service & Infrastructure
Prepared by: O. Jegede
Date: April 1, 2026