

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

Funding to replace defective mobile radios in Sheriff's Office and EMS Vehicles.

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2014

REQUESTED BY: Bryan Dillingham on behalf of Sheriff Van Duncan and Emergency Services Director Jerry Vehaun

Background information

Over the last 2 years Buncombe County has purchased 230 mobile radios that were later discovered to contain manufacturing defects. The manufacturer agreed to replace those 230 units at their own expense with a guarantee that if problems persisted they would refund the purchase price of \$635,000 to Buncombe County. Even after replacing these radios within the fleet, issues have continued that prevent reliable operation and that ultimately affect the safety of personnel.

Pro's

Funding will provide reliable communications for public safety personnel.

Con's

Additional cost of purchase and time associated with removal of defective units as well as installation, programming, and training for the new mobile units.

Funds required

A budget amendment of \$215,000 is requested to supplement the refund amount in order purchase new, reliable units from another manufacturer.

Alternatives**Action recommended:**

Approve funding to ensure reliable communications for public safety personnel.