

CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA



2010-01

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FEDERAL FUNDING PROJECTS REQUESTS

PRIORITY

PROJECT TITLE

SCOPE

REQUEST ESTIMATE

PROJECT PROPOSED BY

1

Public Safety Radio System Replacement

The current radio system serves all operational functions in the City, which includes almost all of the various departments. The current system is ten years old and must be replaced in a timely manner, as the manufacturer cannot supply support and maintenance past June 30, 2011. Therefore, the City is seeking funding to replace the current radio system with a VHF digital, simulcast, trunked radio system throughout the City of Billings that is fully integrated into the larger Interoperability Montana Project. At the same time, the State of Montana, with its Interoperability Montana Project, is in the process of deploying a statewide VHF digital trunking system. Yellowstone County has already begun participation in that project and is presently preparing three radio sites within the County. This replacement system will provide for more complete coverage of the City of Billings, seamless interoperability with surrounding communities, a wider area of operation for City of Billings first responders, and a more robust, redundant system than is presently experienced. This is a critically important public safety necessity.

\$10,000,000

Fire Department

2

Storm Water Improvements East End Industrial Area

The current storm water collection systems serve 2,812 acres of heavily developed urban area. The current storm drain system is significantly undersized for the urban runoff area and needs to be expanded to eliminate current flooding problems.

\$6,400,000

Public Works Department

3

Sharptail Storm Water Retention System

The City of Billings is requesting assistance in the design and construction of a storm water collection and water quality project. The purpose of the project is to collect and clean storm water generated in a 12,000 acre basin on the west side of Billings, Montana. The project will allow the City of Billings to mitigate significant storm water flooding and meet Federal and State standards for clean water. Currently, the west end of Billings and Yellowstone County have no centralized storm water collection system to divert the floodwater away from development, and clean the water before it enters the Yellowstone River.

\$2,300,000

Public Works Department



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FEDERAL FUNDING PROJECTS REQUESTS				
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4	Personal Protective Equipment – Gas Masks	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary in order to operate in an area contaminated with hazardous materials or toxic gas. Currently, the Billings Police Department has no equipment that would allow officers to operate in such an environment. Gas masks would allow officers to do that, thereby providing safety and security for the citizens of Billings. There are three refineries, major rail connections, numerous storage tanks, and tanker trucks traveling through downtown Billings and populated areas carrying hazardous material.	\$86,000	Police Department
5	Hazardous Waste Drop Off Facility	The proper disposal of hazardous material is an environmental concern for our community. Billings currently provides our customers two opportunities a year to dispose of the materials, and we contract to have material disposed of at an approved disposal site. Because the City of Billings does not have the appropriate hazardous waste storage facilities, we cannot store material between the two collection dates. Because of these facility limitations, residents of the area improperly dispose of the material at the landfill, in their sanitary sewers, or on the ground. The improper disposal of hazardous material creates an environmental challenge for generations. Therefore, funds are being requested to construct a storage and transfer facility for our landfill users.	\$100,000	Public Works Department
6	Business Consortium Project	The Mayor's Committee on Homelessness proposes to facilitate the purchase and/or renovation of a building located in downtown Billings with the intent to provide housing in the upper levels for homeless individuals/families, and a storefront business on the lower level. Provisions can be made to accommodate service providers in the building, including healthcare, childcare, and occupational training. Locating all services to meet the needs of the homeless in a single site is a national best practice called "One Stop." The Business Consortium Project would be the first of its kind in Montana, and can be used as a model for implementation in other communities.	\$500,000	Planning Department



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NOV 2010

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7	Speed Control Radars	The Billings Police Department is tasked with enforcing local, State, and Federal laws within the City limits. The largest area of concern, as voiced by the citizens of Billings in recent community meetings, is that of traffic enforcement. Billings has seen a significant increase in injury accidents and fatalities. Many of those accidents involved excessive speed. 2009 has been a particularly deadly year in Billings, with over ten fatalities in the immediate area. In many cases, speed was a factor. Currently, the Billings Police Department utilizes old and outdated radar equipment. Much is in disrepair and some patrol cars are not equipped. The new radar equipment is designed to interface with our ICOP digital camera system.	\$197,750	Police Department
8	Downtown Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Connections	The future bicycle and pedestrian trail network for the City of Billings was originally proposed in the 1995 BikeNet Plan, and later updated in the 2004 Heritage Trail Plan. The City of Billings has since constructed over 24 miles of hard-surface, off-street bicycle and pedestrian trails based on available right-of-way, need, and funding, resulting in some discontinuous trail segments. The community support for connecting these trail segments is extremely high. The Downtown Connector is a critical bicycle/pedestrian trail link that connects an existing 12.5 mile trail extending from the Billings Heights neighborhood, south along the Yellowstone River to Mystic Park, with the on-street pedestrian and bike facilities in downtown Billings. The Downtown Connector will further the City's objective to link existing trail segments creating an interconnected network linking neighborhoods with destinations.	\$750,000	Planning Department



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Regional Park Land Acquisition	To alleviate the issue of overcrowding in our community/regional parks, we propose the acquisition of a large contiguous tract of land between 80 and 100 acres to develop into a truly regional multi-use park. A tract of land this size would allow the development of large programmable open spaces and organized sports fields to help reduce the current over crowding we are experiencing in our large parks and provide the necessary amenities to meet the demands of our increases in population.	\$900,000	Parks Department
Fire Department Emergency Services Training Facility	This is intended to be a regional training facility, which would include our City Fire, Police, Aviation and Transit, and other Departments. Components could include a central training/classroom building, fire tower, other building mock-ups, driving track, confined space facilities, trench rescue functions, HazMat facilities, running fuel fire and propane systems, vehicle extrications, aircraft mock-up training, and multiple police functions. These and others, as not yet identified, are potentials. Functions could be added incrementally over multiple years as additional funding becomes available.	\$7,000,000 – \$14,000,000 Depending on what is included and when	Fire Department