SUBJECT: PORTERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UPGRADE

SOURCE: Police Department

COMMENT: The Porterville Police Department Communications Center has emergency communications equipment that is nearing its useful life. We are experiencing breakdowns that are difficult to repair because of the age of the equipment. A properly functioning communications console is vital to the safety and security of the citizens of Porterville and the police officers, and firefighters tasked with protecting our community. The equipment our dispatchers use on a daily basis to relay critical and confidential information was purchased used in 1989, the date the current police facility was built. The vendors and manufacturers of the equipment are unable to find parts to repair these critical components.

The Communications Center is the nerve center for emergency communications within the City of Porterville. Police, fire, ambulance, animal control, public works, and other inter-agency/intra-agency communication is facilitated by the staff and equipment located in the Communications Center. Additionally, in the event of a natural disaster, a critical incident that threatens our community, or a terrorist attack, the Communications Center is the key component in the successful implementation of the City of Porterville Emergency Operations Center.

The needs assessment focuses on the centers upgrade needs, incorporating the facilities expansion possibilities by assessing Porterville population growth projections, and explores revenue sources to offset the cost factors of the Communications Center upgrade.

The total estimated cost for the required upgrades is $423,245.04. A funding source of $249,451.43 in State of California grants funds to implement wireless 9-1-1 compatibility and GIS tracking software is secured for this project. The remaining balance for the upgrade of $173,793.61 is requested from savings in the Porterville Police Department 2004-2005 budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:
1) Approve the expenditure of $173,793.61, in funds from the Porterville Police Department 2004-2005 fiscal year budget.

DD [ ] CM [ ] Appropriated/Funded _____ Item No. 3