



February 18, 2016

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Adoption of a Board Order to Refer a Question to Voters in May 2016 for
General Obligation Bonds to Replace and Upgrade
the C800 Emergency Radio System and Necessary Components

Purpose/Outcomes	Declares the intent for Clackamas County to place a measure on the May 2016 ballot on behalf of the C800 Radio Group for General Obligation bonds to replace the obsolete emergency radio communication system.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	The maximum value of the bonds is up to \$58.7 million. Estimated cost per \$1,000 of Assessed Value will be \$0.10 annually. No funding from the County is required other than that regularly budgeted in the Sheriff's Office.
Funding Source	Tax-exempt General Obligation bonds/debt obligations.
Duration	N/A – referral of ballot question to voters
Previous Board Action	The latest policy session on this issue was held January 26, 2016 with the Board of Commissioners at which time the Board instructed staff to finalize ballot measure language to place the question on the May 2016 ballot on C800's behalf per their request and schedule a hearing before the Board.
Strategic Plan Alignment	This action aligns with the following Board strategic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build Public Trust through Good Government: supports and assists a cooperative effort among multiple agencies and two counties to best serve the public in emergencies • Build a Strong Infrastructure: replacement and upgrade of the emergency responder radio system will provide more resilient and effective public safety radio system infrastructure • Ensure Safe, Healthy and Secure Communities: anticipated new infrastructure resulting from the bond proceeds will better allow emergency responders to provide safe and secure communities for all residents of Clackamas County
Contact Person	Laurel Butman, Deputy County Administrator, 503-655-8893 Chris Storey, Senior Legal Counsel, 503- 742-4623

Background:

Clackamas County has been asked by the Board of Directors of the C800, an ORS 190 agency which provides emergency radio communications in Clackamas County, to place a measure on the May 2016 ballot asking voters to approve a countywide General Obligation Bond levy to finance replacement of the emergency radio system and necessary components thereof. The proposed debt issuance would total approximately \$59 million.

The current radio system which serves Clackamas County first responders including Fire Districts, Police Departments, the County Sheriff, City Central Dispatch Agencies, and Emergency Medical Responders, was built in 2000 utilizing technology that had been developed during the 1990's. The system, which is on the verge of obsolescence and prone to unpredictable failures, is under vendor support only until 2017. Many system components are no longer manufactured.

In order to replace the current system with needed supporting infrastructure and modernized radios, C800 has been working with the Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA) which jointly owns and runs this antiquated technology for emergency dispatch and communications, to create a reliable update to the systems which benefit both Counties.

At the request of C800, Clackamas County plans to place the question before the voters seeking their approval to issue General Obligation debt to finance Clackamas County's portion of this replacement project. Washington County is also pursuing a General Obligation bond on the same timeline for its portion of the project.

This project, if voter-approved for financing, will provide the County and its residents with a reliable and up to date system of emergency radio communications that will interact cooperatively with Washington County's compatible technology to continue the joint system. The solution will be viable well into the future.

The County will be the issuer of this debt and the debt service will be provided through a voter approved levy estimated to cost about \$26.25 per year for the average household.

The Board is asked to adopt a resolution to submit the language in Attachment A for placement on the May 2016 ballot.

Recommendation:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board adopt the attached Board Order with the ballot language provided in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Butman
Deputy County Administrator

Chris Storey
Senior Legal Counsel

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In the Matter of Calling
An Election on the Question of
Authorizing General Obligation Bonds
For the Modernization of Emergency
Communications System and
Related Matters

ORDER NO. 2016-_____

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") is desirous of proposing a general obligation bond to the voters of Clackamas County on behalf of the Clackamas 800 Radio Group ("C800") to support capital needs of emergency responders, as requested by the collective offices of fire, ambulance and law enforcement agency members of C800 (the "Partners"); and

WHEREAS, the emergency radio system is in great need of upgrade to meet the current and future needs of Clackamas County residents; and

WHEREAS, this project, if voter-approved for financing, will provide the County and its residents with a reliable and up to date system of emergency radio communications that will interact cooperatively with Washington County's compatible technology to continue a joint system operated to maximize the value of taxpayer dollars. The project, upon completion, will provide reliable service well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the County will be the issuer of this debt and the debt service will be provided through a voter approved levy estimated to cost about \$25.30 per year for the average household, which in turn will be distributed to the Partners for use in implementation of the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED
BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

1. A measure election is hereby called for the purpose of allowing voters to consider the question of authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in the name of Clackamas County in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$59,000,000. Bond proceeds will be used to:
 - a. Convert the emergency radio system to current technology;
 - b. Expand coverage to county areas that currently have none;
 - c. Add in-building capabilities so emergency radio sets will function within hospitals and schools;
 - d. Replace approximately 1000 analog radios used by emergency responders;
 - e. Improve reliability during major disasters; and
 - f. Purchase land and repay debt to facilitate any of the foregoing.
2. The measure election hereby called shall be held in Clackamas County on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
3. The County shall submit ballot language substantially in the form attached hereto as

Attachment A and related explanatory statement describing the intended uses of the bond proceeds, subject only to ministerial correction by staff.

4. The County hereby authorizes the Chair, the County Administrator, the County Counsel or their designees to submit, sign, publish notice and otherwise take all necessary action to effectuate the foregoing.

DATED this 18th day of February, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary

In the Matter of Calling An Election on the
Question of Authorizing General Obligation
Bonds for the Modernization of Emergency
Communications System and Related Matters

ORDER NO.

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WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") is desirous of proposing a general obligation bond to the voters of Clackamas County on behalf of the Clackamas 800 Radio Group ("C800") to support capital needs of emergency responders, as requested by the collective offices of fire, ambulance and law enforcement agency members of C800 (the "Partners"); and

WHEREAS, the emergency radio system is in great need of upgrade to meet the current and future needs of Clackamas County residents; and

WHEREAS, this project, if voter-approved for financing, will provide the County and its residents with a reliable and up to date system of emergency radio communications that will interact cooperatively with Washington County's compatible technology to continue a joint system operated to maximize the value of taxpayer dollars. The project, upon completion, will provide reliable service well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the County will be the issuer of this debt and the debt service will be provided through a voter approved levy estimated to cost about \$26.25 per year for the average household, which in turn will be distributed to the Partners for use in implementation of the Project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED
BY THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

1. A measure election is hereby called for the purpose of allowing voters to consider the question of authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in the name of Clackamas County in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$59,000,000. Bond proceeds will be used to:
 - a. Convert the emergency radio system to current technology;
 - b. Expand coverage to county areas that currently have none;
 - c. Add in-building capabilities so emergency radio sets will function within hospitals and schools; and
 - d. Replace approximately 1000 analog radios used by emergency responders.
2. The measure election hereby called shall be held in Clackamas County on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

In the Matter of Calling An Election on the
Question of Authorizing General Obligation
Bonds for the Modernization of Emergency
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ORDER NO.

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3. The County shall submit ballot language substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and related explanatory statement describing the intended uses of the bond proceeds, subject only to ministerial correction by staff.
4. The County hereby authorizes the Chair, the County Administrator, the County Counsel or their designees to submit, sign, publish notice and otherwise take all necessary action to effectuate the foregoing.

DATED this 18TH day of February, 2016.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary

Attachment A

CAPTION: General Obligation Bonds to replace obsolete emergency radio communications system.
(10/10)

QUESTION: Shall County replace obsolete first responders emergency radio communications system; expand coverage; reinforce for disasters; issue \$59 million in bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

(20/20)

SUMMARY: When the public calls 9-1-1 for help, Clackamas County's emergency communications system dispatches all fire and rescue, law enforcement, and ambulance providers countywide. Although the system has worked for decades, manufacturers no longer make key parts and towers are not designed to withstand the earthquakes predicted for Oregon.

If approved, bonds will pay for replacement of the emergency communications system including:

- Convert the emergency radio system to current technology;
- Expand coverage to county areas that currently have none;
- Add in-building coverage, so radios can function within hospitals, schools;
- Improve reliability during major disasters;
- Replace many analog radios countywide; and
- Purchase land, repay debt.

For accountability, a citizen committee will provide oversight.

Bonds would be paid over 16 years or less.

Projected tax rate for bonds is estimated not to exceed 10¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. Actual rate may vary depending on market conditions. Typical homeowners with a 2016 average assessed (not market) value of \$262,514 would pay about \$26.25 annually or a little over \$2 a month.

(174/175)

Clackamas County Measure No. ___-___

Clackamas County Emergency Communications System Bond Measure

Explanatory Statement

The existing emergency radio communications system for Clackamas County was built in the 1990s as a multi-agency effort to ensure emergency responders, including fire, law enforcement, and ambulance providers, could quickly and safely respond to emergencies.

Who uses the emergency communications system?

When a call for help is made to 9-1-1, the emergency radio system enables dispatchers to get all necessary emergency responders to the caller's location as quickly as possible. The system also provides the vital link among responders in the field to coordinate, request backup and get aid to people in crisis. The system is used by fire and rescue, city police, the County Sheriff, and EMS/ambulance responders countywide. The system is run by the Clackamas 800 Radio Group (C800), a partnership of public safety agencies.

Why does the system need to be updated?

Four key issues prompt the need for the system upgrades contemplated by the bond:

- *Changes in Emergency Communications Technology* – Equipment for the current system is obsolete and reaching the end of its serviceable life. Manufacturers no longer make key replacement parts because they have transitioned to newer technology, and finding used parts for the system has become increasingly difficult.
- *Growing Demand for Emergency Services* – Population and emergency call volume have grown and are anticipated to increase further over the coming decades. Up-to-date equipment is necessary to ensure that the system remains effective.
- *System Coverage* – The existing system has limited or no coverage in rural areas including Mt. Hood, the Clackamas River drainage, and portions of South County. The existing system also has limited functioning and coverage within large buildings such as schools, hospitals, and commercial structures. Purchasing additional sites, adding towers, and expanding coverage inside buildings will increase system availability.
- *Need to Improve Reliability During Major Disasters* – The system must be designed, built and maintained to a much higher standard than consumer telecommunications so it can work reliably during a storm, earthquake, or other major emergency, even if landline or cell phone networks overload or fail. Updated equipment and strengthened facilities will improve reliability of the system during severe weather, major earthquakes, and other disasters.

How much would the system improvements cost?

The proposal would raise an estimated \$59 million for capital improvements, equipment upgrades, and replacement of analog radios currently used by first responders countywide. These funds would be generated through the County's issuance of general obligation bonds that are expected to be paid over 16 years or less.

How much would this measure cost property taxpayers?

The projected levy rate is estimated to be approximately 10¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value. Actual rate may vary depending on changes in bond interest rates and assessed values. This rate would be levied over 15 years or less. A typical homeowner would pay about \$26.25 in 2016 or a little over \$2 a month assuming an average assessed (not market) value of \$262,514.

More information?

Call C800 at 503-780-4806 or visit the website at www.C800.org.

(490/500)