

**RESOLUTION 2014-107 PASSED: NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DEKALB, ILLINOIS, TO ENTER INTO SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING ON AUGUST 29, 2014, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,329.38, AND IF NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS TO REPAIR OR REPLACE OTHER ITEMS FOUND TO BE DAMAGED.**


**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, as follows:

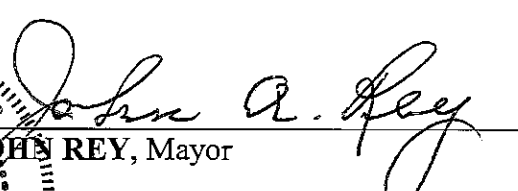
**Section 1.** That the MAYOR of the City of DeKalb be authorized and directed to enter into an Agreement with various service providers for \$26,329.38 and if necessary, additional amounts to repair or replace other items found to be damaged by the lightning strike of August 29, 2014, in an amount not to exceed the applicable budgeted line items. Further, staff is directed to take all actions necessary to file, implement and effectuate insurance claims relating to said lightning strike in a timely fashion.


**Section 2.** That the City Clerk of the City of DeKalb be authorized and directed to attest the Mayor's signature.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** of the City of DeKalb, Illinois at a regular meeting thereof held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 and approved by me as Mayor on the same day. Passed by Omnibus roll call vote of 8-0 on the Consent Agenda. Aye: Jacobson, Finucane, Lash, Snow, Naylor, Baker, O'Leary, Rey.

**ATTEST:**

  
RUTH A. SCOTT, Deputy City Clerk

  
JOHN REY, Mayor

The seal of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, is circular with a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "CITY OF DE KALB" at the top and "STATE OF ILLINOIS" at the bottom. The inner circle features a central emblem depicting a figure holding a scale and a sword, with the date "1837" below it.

**DATE:** November 19, 2014

**TO:** Honorable Mayor John Rey  
City Council

**FROM:** Anne Marie Gaura, City Manager  
Gene Lowery, Chief of Police  
Jason Leverton, Commander

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing Service Agreements with Various Service Providers for the Repair and Replacement of Police Department Communications Equipment Damaged by Lightning on August 29, 2014, in the amount of \$26,329.38, and, if Necessary, Additional Amounts to Repair or Replace Other Items Found to be Damaged.

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Enhance Public Safety for Our Community and Our Residents

**I. Summary**

Following a lightning strike at the Police Department that damaged several low-voltage computer, telephone, and elevator components, authorization for payment is requested as required to repair or replace necessary equipment. The total repair and replacement items will exceed \$20,000, though insurance is expected to reimburse all costs minus the \$10,000 deductible.

**II. Background**

On the evening of August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department communications tower or very nearby area sustained a lightning strike. Smoke was detected immediately thereafter in the communications technology room, and several computer fiber cards that control various communications equipment were found burned. Since that time, it has been determined that although the tower equipment and primary electric system were not damaged, various low-voltage items sustained damage and have required repair or replacement. This includes:

- Complete re-programming of elevator operating system. Upon a system shutdown for routine maintenance, it failed to re-start and was found to have lost its programming. This is a typical result of lightning damage to low-voltage equipment.
- Two Motorola Voice Processing Module (VPM) units were damaged beyond repair. This system processes voices transmitted into a radio to a digital signal. These would have cost \$19,500 each to replace, but were covered under an existing service

agreement, thanks to the City's decision to maintain a high-level service agreement for this hardware.

- Two Analog Multiplexer Channel Selector Bases were damaged beyond repair. A multiplexer is a device that selects one of several input signals and forwards the selected input into a single line. They are mainly used to increase the amount of data that can be sent over the network within a certain time and bandwidth.
- Ten (10) Computer Raven Cards and Backplane were damaged beyond repair. These are computer control cards for the radio system.
- One of the communications console power supply connections was damaged beyond repair.
- One Digitac VHF Radio Voter was damaged beyond repair. A voter is an analog unit that ensures reliable, high-quality audio levels for radio systems. The unit works with a group of receivers to combine multiple signals to a selector system as one signal. It allows superior response to urgent communication by automatically selecting the best quality channel signal available.
- One telecommunicator's primary telephone was damaged beyond repair.
- The tornado siren system also needed to be reset, as it failed its initial test but was restored within 24 hours.

An inspection of the lightning arresters, cabling and grounding showed no damage. A review of the electrical grounding system showed no damage or malfunctions. There was no power surge detected on surge protection systems. The lightning somehow traveled through low-voltage systems and caused damage, or perhaps a static electricity charge surged through the system. Service providers and repair technicians have advised that lightning often causes damage to communication system components in peculiar and non-uniform ways. An inspection of the low-voltage grounding system is pending from a service provider to be recommended by Motorola.

**III. Community Groups/Interested Parties Contacted**

None.

**IV. Legal Impact**

None.

**V. Financial Impact**

Listed below are the bills to date for the necessary repairs:

Braun Elevator	Re-Programming Elevator Controls	\$ 3,550.00
Braun Elevator	Re-Programming Security Features	\$ 870.00



Braun Elevator	Re-Programming Door Controls	\$ 684.00
Dixon-Ottawa	2 Analog Fiber Cards	\$ 6,200.00
Dixon-Ottawa	10 Raven Cards and Backplane	\$ 6,930.00
Dixon-Ottawa	Console Power Supply	\$ 902.00
Dixon-Ottawa	Digitac Voter	\$ 2,500.00
Dixon-Ottawa	Total Labor Charge	\$ 2,340.00
Frontier	Telephone (Refurbished)	\$ 103.38
Frontier	Labor Charge for Inspection/Repair	\$ 750.00
<u>Pending</u>	<u>Inspection of Grounding System</u>	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
TOTAL		\$26,329.38

- The elevator shutdown was conducted by the City’s usual annual inspection service company, Schindler, but repairs were ultimately made by Braun in order to maintain the warranty that extends into 2015.
- The computer and radio-related items are all serviced through the City’s Starcom User’s Agreement and the Motorola Service Agreement, with Dixon-Ottawa as the sole source provider for servicing these maintenance agreements.
- Frontier is the contracted provider of telephone services through the County’s Emergency Telephone System Board.
- Traveler’s Insurance is aware of the above costs and has initially approved all of them on a pending claim. The City will have to pay the above bills, and then be reimbursed by Traveler’s, minus the \$10,000 deductible.
- Property and Liability Insurance claims in the FY 2015 Budget = \$100,000; spent to date = \$1,153.74, leaving plenty of room in the budget to absorb this \$10,000 deductible.

NOTE: As of the writing of this memorandum on November 13<sup>th</sup>, a complete network shutdown is planned for November 17<sup>th</sup> and could result in additional items being found damaged. Traveler’s is aware of this as well and recommends the system shutdown to ensure all systems will restore properly upon being returned to power.

**VI. Options**

The City has no viable options but to pay these bills for items necessary for operation of Police and Fire telephone and radio communication systems. The City is fortunate that the most expensive components (two VPM’s) were covered under a service agreement, and to have these items reimbursable through Traveler’s Insurance.

**VII. Recommendation**

Approve the resolution to make the necessary payments to service providers as listed above.

