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By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times Local law enforcement will be seeing some changes in the near future, and the modifications will improve the response of emergency workers to a scene. Monday, the Seward County Commission approved a project from Spillman Technology to assist with upgrades to technology in both the sheriff's office and the Liberal Police Department.

Sheriff Bill McBryde said a large portion of grant money, a little more than \$140,000, will go to communications through an E911 grant for the Computer Aided Dispatch program. McBryde said that grant from the State of Kansas' Governor's Grant Program had been approved prior to Monday. This is one of two phases of funding.

"Phase 1 is the COPS grant which was given to the Liberal Police Department in the amount of \$200,000," the sheriff said. "I was able to receive a private foundation grant for \$110,000. The total project was \$486,624."

McBryde, however, was later able to lessen the cost of the Spillman project.

"After receiving this funds, I called the company and negotiated," he said. "I said we're \$32,000 short on, basically, a half million dollar project. How bad do you want to sell this?"

McBryde said the program was purchased for a grand total of \$453,107.

"We have all the money in grants," he said. "The funding's there."

McBryde added county taxpayers will not pay a penny for the program.

"I'm asking for your permission and authority to go forward with this program tonight and allow the chairman to sign the contracts on this with legal counsel's approval," he said to the commission.

Under a current contract, McBryde said the sheriff's office and LPD are each paying about \$5,000 a year in maintenance cost, and that price tag will be significantly decreased with Spillman.

"In that \$5,000 with our current provider, we're responsible for paying for all of our upgrades," he said. "Through Spillman Technology, it is an increased amount, but we pay for no upgrades whatsoever. It's all included in our maintenance agreement."

The commission unanimously approved the Spillman project and authorized McBryde and commission chair Joyce Hibler to sign a sales quote/purchase agreement and all documents related to the project.

A description of the phases of the project is as follows:

o Phase 1:

COPS grant – The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is providing grant funding for the City of Liberal's and the LPD's share of the funding obligation. The office of Representative Jerry Moran assisted in securing the COPS grant for the City of Liberal. LPD was notified through the COPS office on Sept. 22 that funding was approved in the amount of \$200,000 for the fiscal year 2010 COPS grant year; and

Seward County Sheriff's office – A private foundation grant is providing grant funding for the sheriff's office share of the funding obligation. The office was notified last week that its application for funds in the amount of \$110,000 had been approved. A condition of the grant is that the private foundation source not be made public.

o Phase 2:

E911 grant – The Governor's Grant Program is providing grant funding for the Communication Center's share of the funding obligation. The center was notified through the governor's office that its Enhanced 911 State Grant was approved in the amount of \$290,150 for both the 911 system upgrade and the CAD portion from Spillman for the FY2011 grant year. The 911 system upgrade portion is \$147,042, and the CAD portion is \$143,107. CAD funds cannot be expended until 2011.

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