



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 17th, 2024

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 09, 2024  
**TO:** 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee  
**FROM:** Melissa Lawney, Regional Communications Coordinator, Washoe County Technology Services, 775-858-5952, [mlawney@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mlawney@washoecounty.gov)  
**THROUGH:** Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Washoe County  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve expenditures for services for complete installation, including old generator removal, automatic transfer switch replacement, and new generator installation, at the Fox Mountain radio site for a cost not to exceed [\$29,300.00]. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve expenditures for services for complete installation, including old generator removal, automatic transfer switch replacement, and new generator installation, at the Fox Mountain radio site for a cost not to exceed [\$29,300.00].

Fox Mountain is located just north of Gerlach, NV. The site provides radio coverage in Gerlach, and north as far as the Vya area. Being one of the higher peaks in Washoe County, this radio site has a huge service area. This radio site has great radio coverage and is an integral piece of the Washoe County Regional Communication System. Although the site is ideal for radio coverage but is in an area where there are few power customers, and during winter storms the solar cannot supply enough power, creating outages. This site relies heavily on its generator for a redundant power source, especially during nighttime when the Solar Array microgrid cannot supply power from the sun.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Long-term Sustainability and delivery of efficient regional Services.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the 800Mhz Joint Operating Committee approved expenditures for the purchase of a Generator for the Fox Mountain radio site at a cost not to exceed \$27,220.

### BACKGROUND

In June of 2017, Fox generator were installed. The current model of generator no longer has part available to change out, and now that WCRCS is Standardizing all equipment. We have decided to go with a 30KW Generator to replace the 15KW Generator that is currently there. Our power load has increased with the New P25 equipment, requiring the

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update. December of 2021 the Solar Array was built at Fox, and has been the primary source of power, but during storms the generator is the back up power needed to keep public safety communication up and operational.

Safety is the primary reason for standby generators. Public safety lives depend on radio communications, and community lives depend on the ability for public safety to communicate.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget has sufficient budget authority in Washoe County Regional Communication System (210) in RCS Infrastructure (210300), Equipment Capital (781004) in an amount of [\$29,300].

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Joint Operating Committee approve expenditures for services for complete installation, including old generator removal, automatic transfer switch replacement, and new generator installation, at the Fox Mountain radio site for a cost not to exceed [\$29,300.00].

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Committee agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to approve expenditures for services for complete installation, including old generator removal, automatic transfer switch replacement, and new generator installation, at the Fox Mountain radio site for a cost not to exceed [\$29,300.00].”