



City of Rowlett

Special Meeting Agenda

City Council

4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088
www.rowlett.com

City of Rowlett City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at 972-412-6115 or write 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, 75088, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Annex Building – 4004 Main Street

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. AGENDA ITEMS

2A. Discuss the replacement of the Public Safety Radio System and Simulcast Site. (45 minutes)

2B. The City Council shall convene into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code, §551.087 (Economic Development) and §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) to receive legal advice from the City Attorney, to discuss and deliberate commercial or financial information received from business prospects and the offer of financial or other incentives to business prospects that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in the Downtown District, and to discuss economic development incentives and a Development Agreement with Integral Development LLC and Catalyst Urban Development LLC on City owned property located in Downtown. (90 minutes)

TAKE ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

3. ADJOURN

Laura Hallmark

Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin boards located inside and outside the doors of the Municipal Center, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, as well as on the City's website (www.rowlett.com) on the 6th day of March, 2014, by 5:00 p.m.



City of Rowlett

Staff Report

4000 Main Street
P.O. Box 99
Rowlett, TX 75080-0099
www.rowlett.com

AGENDA DATE: 03/11/14

AGENDA ITEM: 2A

TITLE

Discuss the replacement of the Public Safety Radio System and Simulcast Site. (45 minutes)

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

W.M. Brodnax, Chief of Police
Neil Howard, Fire Chief
Don Poovey, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Ferrie, Lieutenant of Police

SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to discuss the replacement of the Public Safety Radio System and Simulcast Site. The City of Rowlett has been a user on Garland's radio system for 17 years. The life cycle of this system will end in 2016. Pursuant to Federal and State Law, all future radio systems for the Police and Fire departments must become Phase II/P25 compliant by 2017. The Federal Government has moved the deadline date several times; therefore, no specifics have been established. Texas, however has established January 2015, as the date for Phase II/P25 interoperable compliance. It should be noted that neither the Federal nor State governments have placed any sanctions on agencies for failure to meet date deadlines.

What is important to understand is that the City of Rowlett is a user of the City of Garland's radio system. All of our communications equipment (portable radios, vehicle radios and dispatch equipment) will need to be replaced in order to operate with the new Garland radio system by January, 2016. Rowlett either has to design, purchase and install a standalone radio system prior to January, 2016 or stay a user of Garland/Mesquite radio system to ensure Rowlett Public Safety Departments can provide emergency services to the Citizens of Rowlett.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In August of 2013, the City of Garland notified all City of Garland radio users that their radio system will come to the end of its life in December, 2016. The City of Garland hired RCC Consultants, Inc. to perform a radio system needs assessment to determine the radio equipment needed and to establish bid specs for new equipment needs. The City of Rowlett has completed their portion of assessing our equipment needs. During the RCC Consultants, Inc. need assessment study, we identified the need for one additional radio tower to be established on the east side of Rowlett. We are currently experiencing radio problems in that area and the new radio system will not correct this problem without an additional tower.

The following is a list of the equipment needed for a Phase II/P25 Interoperable Public Safety Radio System. It should be noted that this list could be amended as future needs assessments and tighter cost estimates are completed.

Rowlett Grand Total Cost Estimate:

System Component	Est Cost
New Rowlett Owned Remote Simulcast Site (2014/2015)	\$1,138,500
Microwave System (10-11 GHz) to Commerce Water Tower (2015)	185,000
Dispatch Console Equipment (2015)	500,000
Public Safety Subscriber Radio Equipment (2016)	1,658,900
Fire Station Alerting (2016)	438,000
GPS User Interface-Main Dispatch	50,000
Total Estimated Rowlett Costs	\$3,970,400

There is currently a discussion that is being held among neighboring cities to entice them to join this radio project for cost savings, efficiency, etc. For example, if we can convince the City of Rockwall to join in this project we could piggy-back off of one of their towers on their west side that would enable us to cover our east side, thus reducing the cost of having to erect a tower. However, at this time, we have not received feedback from the City of Rockwall regarding their interest in this project. There is some indication that they will join with the Rockwall County Sheriff's Department instead.

The Rowlett Police Department received a grant in 2013 from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for \$85,000 that enabled us to purchase 19 mobile (in-car) radios for the new system. These radios have arrived and are being stored. The Rowlett Police Department has also applied for a 2014 NCTCOG grant for an additional \$85,000 to purchase portable radios. Approval of this grant will not be known until the end of 2014. Other grant opportunities are being explored.

DISCUSSION

There is a mandatory need for a new Radio System for Public Safety and a tower for the east side of town.

- For years, police and fire have had communication problems with our current radio system on the east side of town – both inside and outside buildings. The new radio system will be a digital system and work from point to point.
- The additional tower on the east side of Rowlett is essential to providing effective and safe communication abilities between public safety employees both in their vehicles and while outside their vehicles inside buildings. It should be noted that police officers and fire fighters spend over 70% of their time inside buildings or outside of their vehicles while performing their job duties.

- Without the additional tower, communication could possibly be worse for public safety officers on the east side of town because of the need for point-to-point, line-of-sight for today's digital systems. **This is a serious safety concern for our public safety personnel.**
- **Federal and State mandates that new public safety radio systems must be Phase II/P25 interoperable compliant.**
- **Garland's current radio system (Rowlett's Public Safety radio system) will be turned off in January, 2016.**

There is also a discussion about the need for a Rowlett owned remote site for the east side of town. For years, police and fire have had problems communicating with our current radio system on the east side of town, both inside and outside buildings. The new radio system will be a digital system and works from point-to-point. Without the additional tower, communications could possibly be worse for public safety officers on the east side of town. This is a serious safety concern for our public safety personnel.

At the time of this discussion, the City of Garland and RCC Consultants, Inc. have not provided us with an exact date as to when the new radio system will need to be purchased and installed. Discussions up to this point have led us to believe that the equipment will need to be purchased in the 2015 fiscal year. Equipment should be purchased and installed by December, 2015 and the new system would go on-line in January, 2016.

With these dates in mind, it is necessary to begin discussions on how to fund this project and prepare ourselves for the purchase needs that we face.

The City of Rowlett has two choices available:

1. Continue to be a user of a regional radio system (i.e. partnering with Garland, Mesquite, Sachse, etc.) at an estimated cost of \$3,970,400; or
2. Purchase and maintain our own stand-alone system at a possible cost of \$9–12 million.

Currently, we pay \$45,158 per year to the City of Garland in addition to the replacement of our own radios when necessary. Garland maintains the radio system itself. For now, the City of Rowlett needs to decide a site location for the additional tower, determine the costs, approve a bid of the project, and start construction. This process needs to start as soon as feasibly possible.

Should Rowlett decide that we would rather have a stand-alone radio system, it would necessitate the following:

1. Hiring of a radio consultant company to:
 - a. determine our radio needs.

- b. determine how many independent radio towers we would need and where they would be located.
2. Devise an RFQ for bids to have the radio system built and installed.
Rowlett may need to acquire land for tower sites, if no City-owned property available, and hire a company to construct the towers and install the antennas.
3. Order all radio equipment and have the chosen radio company install the new radio system.
4. Hire a full-time radio technician to maintain the radio system and antenna towers.

The radio coverage with this system would be limited to just a few miles around the city limits of Rowlett. Finally, this process could cost between nine to 12 million dollars and would take approximately two years or more to complete from start to finish.

Should Rowlett decide to stay as a user with a regional partnership such as Garland, Mesquite, Sachse, etc., our out-of-pocket cost would be less than four million dollars to convert to the new Phase II/P25 interoperable radio system. This partnership would maintain the radio system along with providing a full-time radio technician. The tower coverage would enable Rowlett Public Safety personnel to communicate in some cases within a 75-mile radius of Rowlett. Rowlett would pay annually to be a user like it does today. Currently, Rowlett pays about \$45,000 each year. Garland/Mesquite is currently in talks with several other departments to join this radio system. The more departments that join helps to create a synergy of purchase power and a much greater footprint of radio coverage, which truly defines "interoperability" enabling public safety personnel to be able to talk to each other during emergency situations across city limit lines. Joining a regional radio system is the most cost effective and most efficient public safety radio option available to Rowlett.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Financing of this purchase will be required due to the significant cost. The costs for the tower and the console will need to be funded in FY2015. The remaining funding will need to be programmed for FY2016. The Police Department has set aside \$250,000 from forfeited seizure funds for this project. Staff recommends that temporary financing be used for the remainder of the funds required in FY2015. This can be accomplished with a short-term loan (one year) from the City's bank.

In FY2016, it is recommended that the City consider issuing a 15-year Certificate of Obligation to repay the short-term loan and fund the remainder of the project. Assuming an interest rate of 3.5 percent and the City receives \$100,000 of additional grant funds toward the project, this would result in annual payments of approximately \$312,000 or just under one-cent on the property tax levy.

The funding summary would be as follows:

FY2015 Expenditures		
Radio Tower		\$1,138,500
Console		500,000
	Expenditures	\$1,638,500
FY2015 Funding Sources		
Forfeiture/Seizure Funds		\$250,000
Short Term Loan (1)		1,388,500
	Funds	\$1,638,500
FY2016 Expenditures		
Subscriber Equipment		\$1,658,900
Microwave System		185,000
Fire Station Alerting		438,000
GPS User Interface		50,000
	Expenditures	\$2,331,900
FY2016 Funding Sources		
Grants		\$100,000
15-Year Certificates of Obligation		3,646,894
	Funds	\$3,746,894
Re-Pay Short Term Loan (2)		(1,414,994)
	Net Funds	2,331,900

(1) Twelve month loan, 3.5% interest rate

(2) Includes original loan principal plus \$26,494 of interest

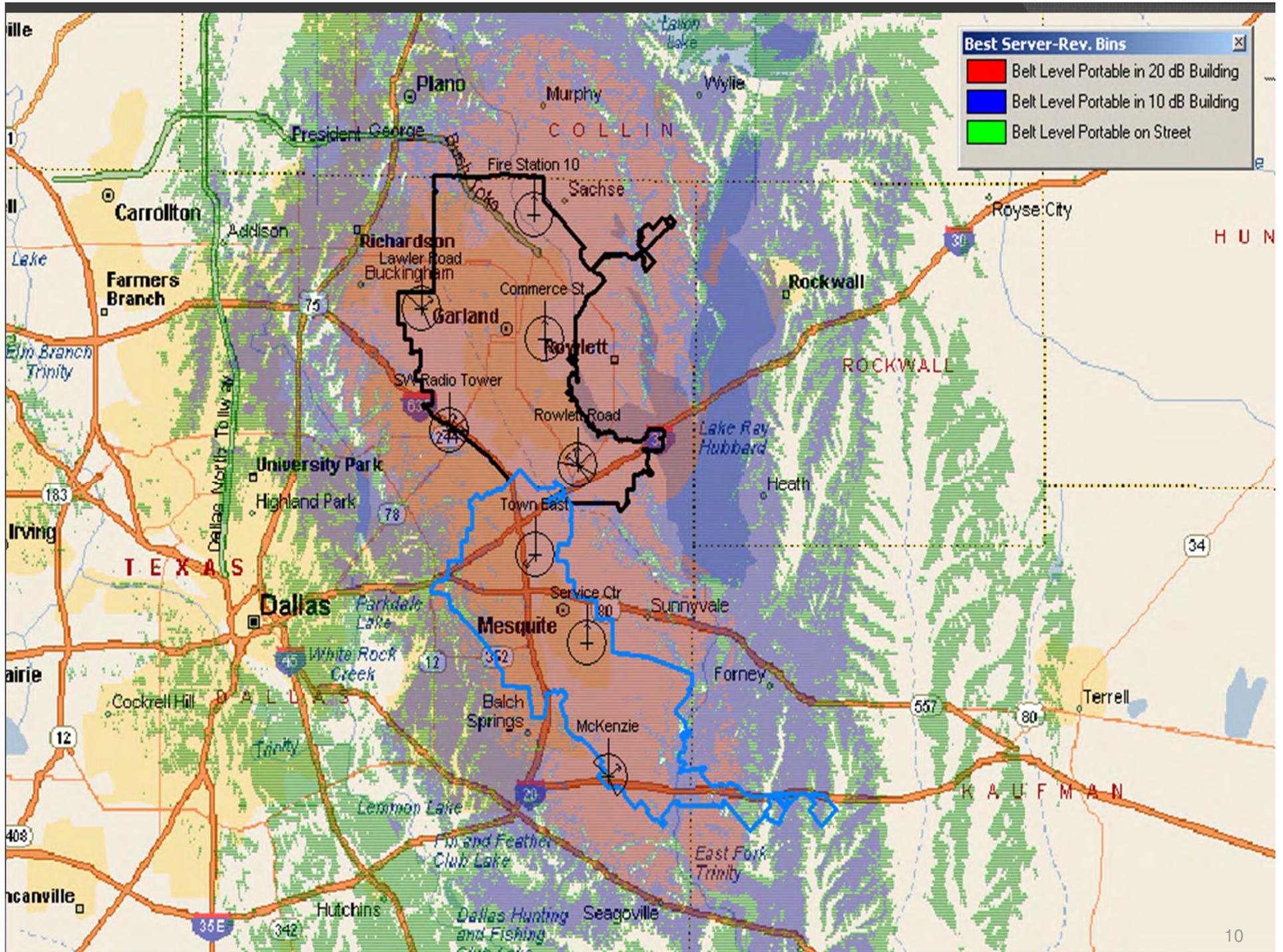
RECOMMENDED ACTION

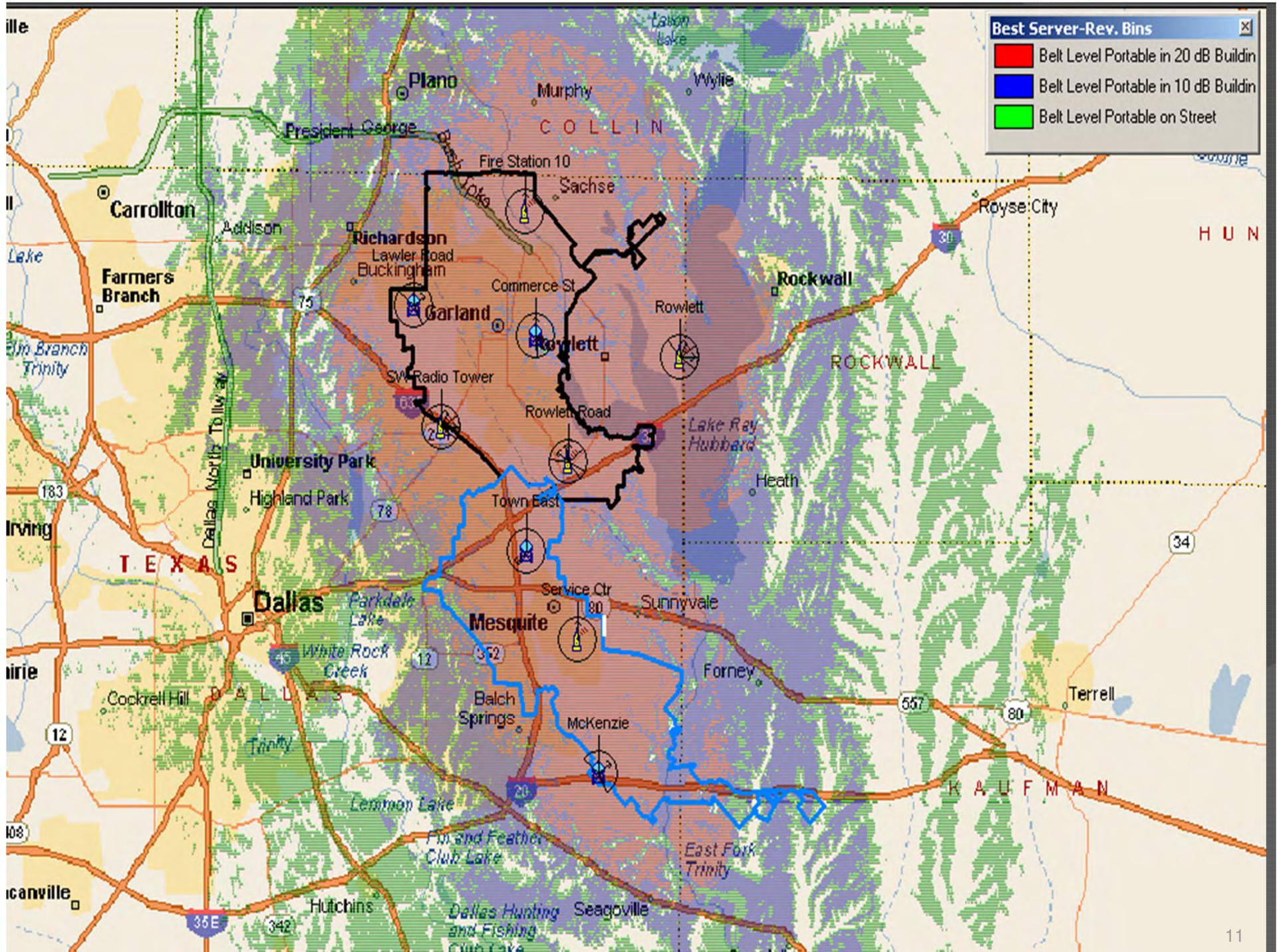
There are several decision points staff would like feedback from Council:

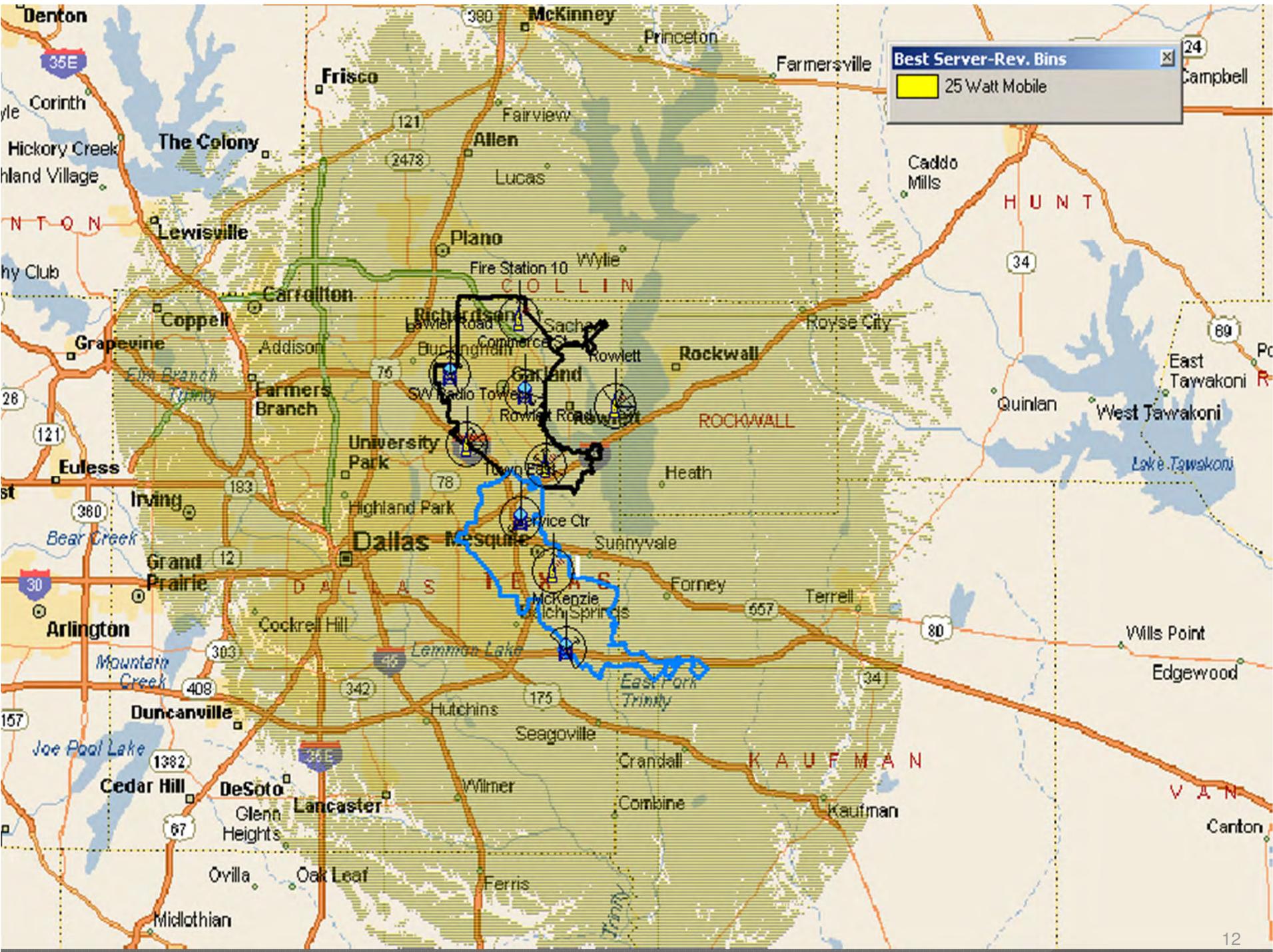
1. Is there consensus from Council to continue our plan to work with the regional partnership with Garland/Mesquite?
2. Is there any desire from Council to explore a stand-alone solution for Rowlett (not recommended)?
3. Is there consensus for the proposed financing strategy utilizing a 15-year Certificate of Obligation?

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – Radio Needs Assessment Map









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Staff Report

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AGENDA DATE: 03/11/14

AGENDA ITEM: 2B

TITLE

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