MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lew C. Bauman  
County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: County Administrative Officer’s Weekly Report for November 10, 2008

This is the weekly report by the County Administrative Officer to the Board of Supervisors. This report provides information on issues affecting the County and the progress of County activities.

Information Technology

Next Generation Radio System: The approximate $20 million Next Generation Radio Project reached a milestone point—in that the development of a governance and funding agreement for the project has been completed and the document is being distributed to all of the participating agencies for review and execution over the next two to three months. The agreement will solidify the commitment of the County, the cities, and Fire Districts to jointly fund the design and construction of the shared infrastructure necessary to meet the Federal Communications Commission’s deadline of January 2013 for narrowbanding of the existing systems. Besides meeting the Federal mandate, the project is also structured to promote interoperability of radio communications between the agencies, modernize the public safety and local government radio systems to meet growing operational and traffic demands, and incorporate improved wireless data communications into the region’s public safety vehicles. An RFP for the design and construction of the new system is nearly completed and would be released under County procurement processes shortly after the County’s execution of the governance and funding agreement. The Information Technology Department and Emergency Communications Department are preparing a presentation on the project for the Board’s Capital Improvement Committee and Budget Committee in January and are looking to bring the project agreements and RFP forward to the Board shortly thereafter.
MPC Corporation Bankruptcy Filing: The County via the Information Technology Department has had a Master Agreement in place with MPC/Gateway Corporation for the supply of personal computers and laptops. The relationship over the last three years has resulted in the significant reduction in the total cost of ownership for these devices, saving the County significant amounts of money. Unfortunately, financial conditions of the industry and the company have caused MPC and all of its subsidiaries to seek relief and reorganization under the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Code. Though these deteriorating financial conditions have caused deliveries of new equipment to be significantly delayed throughout the summer and into the fall, the company expects to conduct business operations while the reorganization process takes place. There is no intention on the part of MPC to discontinue the manufacture of personal computers or laptops, but rather to reverse their recent outsourcing of this activity and begin such assembly at their Nampa Idaho site. They expect to complete the delivery of our existing orders and shipments of warranty parts, etc. after the Bankruptcy hearing scheduled for November 10th in Delaware. The CAO’s Purchasing Division and the Information Technology Department are closely monitoring the situation, having regular discussions with the company, and working on alternative sources of supply and other workaround solutions to avoid any disruptions in County business that may occur as a result of the filing and MPC business interruptions. The company assures us that they will honor our contract and fulfill all the terms of the agreement including the imposition of penalties for late deliveries though the provision of credits toward equipment purchase costs. Though the circumstance is discomforting, all efforts are being taken to avoid further adverse impacts to the County’s departments.

This concludes the CAO report.