

Shenandoah looks to keep communication center as backup

By Jonathan Garris | Posted: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 11:22 pm

The City of Shenandoah is looking to enter into a potential inter-local agreement to keep the city's emergency communication center operational as a backup in disaster scenarios and other emergencies.

The Woodlands Fire Department and Montgomery County Hospital District have expressed interest in utilizing the center located at Shenandoah City Hall as a backup communications center for both organizations, City Administrator Greg Smith said during a city council meeting Wednesday night.

The current lease for the center with the Montgomery County Emergency Communication District is set to expire on Oct. 1, 2014, Smith said. The city would reap several benefits from an inter-local agreement, including better ties to emergency communication channels in the event of a disaster and strengthening relations between the Shenandoah Police Department and other agencies.

The city would enter into an inter-local agreement with TWFD, which would also maintain an agreement with MCHD and the 911 district, Smith said.

Keeping the emergency communications center operational would come at no cost to the city and would also not result in any additional revenue, Smith said. The equipment for the center is already in place, such as radios, wiring and satellite equipment.

Mayor Wes Stephens and city council agreed to pursue an agreement with TWFD, and the city will begin work on drafting an inter-local agreement to maintain the communications center as a backup center.