

Farmington upgrades city computer

By Casey Hane
staff writer

years ago.

Termed the "best buy" for the city, the Farmington City Council voted unanimously June 16 to upgrade its computer hardware, while saving money by using current system software, printers and display terminals.

"We're three generations down the road — maybe more," City Manager Robert Deadman said of the city's already outdated system, bought five

The new central processor will increase computer speed an estimated 7-10 times and allow the administration to process computer work done in the evening during the regular work day. Deadman called the current system "painfully slow and expensive in the expenditure of staff time."

Farmington will pay \$27,000 for a new MV/2000 Data General computer central processor, including a \$1,500 trade-in for the current Data

General disc drive. Converting the current software will cost \$4,300, according to a city report.

The upgrade will pay for itself in an estimated 3.4 years, considering maintenance and energy savings, the report added.

The council voted to waive the normal bidding process for this purchase. By placing the order immediately, the city can take a 5 percent discount.

WITH THE rapidly advancing computer technology, Mayor William Hartsock did not seem

surprised at the five-year upgrade.

"When they (computer manufacturers) want to obsolete a system, they not only upgrade their equipment, but steadily increase maintenance fees."

"We've come to the point where the existing system (upgraded) will serve our needs," Hartsock said. "It's been demonstrated there's a price justification — we can virtually buy a new system" for the price of replacing the processor.

Detailed cost savings were estimated to be \$6,636 for annual hardware maintenance on the present system, \$4,545 saved for not installing an air conditioner needed for the present system, and \$1,272 in energy savings.

Monthly operating costs for the new system are estimated at \$119 compared with the current \$572 for hardware maintenance and \$10 compared with the current \$116 for energy usage, according to the report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS and administrators reviewed information obtained recently from the city of Fraser on Mayor's Exchange Day, about possible use of a non-integrated system. Fraser uses International Business Machines personal computers in each department. Deadman said, after a study by the city treasurer, the Fraser system appeared to

be "adequate, but not persuasive."

"In certain applications, on a small scale, it would be more efficient to have a PC," Hartsock added. For Farmington "it wasn't very efficient — very piecemeal."

The city's integrated central computer system allows each department to use the same data base. The areas of water billings, voter registration, payroll and general accounting are computerized.

"The move to Data General was a big jump for us," Hartsock explained. The city previously used a mag card reader. The selection of Data General was key because of the software flexibility. "They had a good municipal programmer," Hartsock said. "That's the key — available software."

The company used a "canned program" modified to fit the city's needs.

Tentative trial date set for Bailey

By Marie Chesney
and Daniel Grantham
staff writers

A Sept. 2 trial date has been set for Livonia resident Ronald Lloyd Bailey, accused in the 1983 abduction and murder of Shawn Moore of Brighton.

The trial could take place almost a year from the date of the abduction and murder of the teen-ager in Green Oak Township.

Fifty-Third District Judge Stanley Latreille and attorneys for both the prosecution and defense met Friday to set the trial date.

The date is tentative. Prosecutors have not yet received a report from the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti that will determine if Bailey can be held criminally responsible for any of the acts he allegedly committed.

If the center finds that Bailey is not criminally responsible for the crimes, then there would be no trial, said Livingston County assistant prosecutor David Morse.

The report was expected Monday

and is now a week overdue, he said.

"A LOT of time and effort went into that report, and I understand it's a lengthy one," Morse said.

If held, the trial would take place in the courthouse in Howell.

If the report finds Bailey not to be criminally responsible, his attorneys could enter an insanity plea for him and have him sent to a mental hospital for treatment.

Bailey's defense attorneys, Charles Murphy and Raymond Casar of Farmington Hills, have said they will ask for an independent psychiatric evaluation of Bailey if the center finds him criminally responsible.

Bailey is accused of abducting Moore, 13, near his Green Oak Township home Aug. 31, 1985. Moore's body was found Sept. 13 in Gladwin County, four miles from a cabin where Bailey was thought to be staying at the time.

BAILEY WAS arrested Sept. 14 in Florida after a two-day manhunt by federal and local law enforcement officials.

He also faces charges in Wayne County for the July 1984 kidnapping and murder of Kenneth Myers, 14, of Farmdale and the June 1984 kidnapping and sexual assault of a 15-year-old Redford Township boy.

Dates have not yet been set for the two trials in Wayne County. The two cases might present scheduling problems if the trial dates conflict with the date set for the Livingston County trial, Morse said.

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