



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
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STAFF REPORT

BBOARD MEETING DATE: 6/28/2022

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2022
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer,
Technology Services Department
775-328-2355, BZamanian@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to a) approve a Broadband Contract between Washoe County and Digital Technology Solutions (DTS) for Broadband expansion from Nixon to Gerlach Library as aligned to the Washoe County Strategic direction in an amount not to exceed [\$12,588.00 annually, effective fiscal year 2024/25] as specified within the adopted Technology Services Fund's operating budget; and b) approve a memorandum of understanding with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to ensure approval of land access. (Commission District 5)

SUMMARY

Technology Services requests approval of the a) Contract with Digital Technology Solutions (DTS) and b) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pyramid Paiute Tribe, for the Broadband expansion project from Nixon to Gerlach. This is in partnership with the State of Nevada Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, the FCC Matching and the E-Rate Program, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and includes the construction and installation of fiber optics cable from Nixon to the Gerlach Library at no construction cost to the County and will provide high speed Internet access to the library, schools, network infrastructure, public safety entities, as well as further opportunity to offer high speed internet access to the community in Gerlach region. After a comprehensive needs analysis, the State conducted a request for proposal (RFP) procurement process to identify a vendor to construct and install broadband fiber from Nixon to Gerlach Library and provide internet services. After a comprehensive review of the RFP proposal, the team accepted DTS's final proposal and award the contract to DTS.

- a) The contract will allow the Digital Technology Solutions Inc. (DTS), the ability to construct and install fiber optics cable from Nixon to the Gerlach Library. The construction of the project is fully funded (\$2,397,884.83) by and in partnership with the State of Nevada Office of Science Innovation and Technology, the FCC's matching and E-Rate Reimbursement Program funds. The on-going monthly internet fees will be paid by Washoe County through the State E-Rate program which is 40% of the monthly fees in an amount not to exceed \$12,588.00 annually, effective fiscal year 2024/25.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

- b) The installation of the broadband fiber will cross through approximately 6 miles of Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal land, so the project team developed a memorandum of understanding between Washoe County and the Pyramid Paiute Tribe to ensure approval of land access and usage for the Broadband construction.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability – Efficient delivery of Regional Services and Innovative Services – Leverage Technology to Streamline and Automate Services.

And

Technology Services Department Strategic Objective supported by this item: Citizen Experience, Operational Efficiencies

PREVIOUS ACTION

Technology Services has no previous actions relevant to this item taken by the Board of County Commissioners, advisory commissions, or boards.

BACKGROUND

Currently, there is no high-speed Internet services available between Nixon and Gerlach which impacts the schools and library. In an effort to provide high speed Internet access to County departments and future offering to the community in Gerlach, the County Manager Office in coordination and collaboration with Technology Services, Library, State of Nevada Office of Science Innovation and Technology, FCC's E-Rate Program, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe researched options to acquire internet/broadband services. After a comprehensive needs analysis, together we conducted a request for proposal (RFP) procurement process to identify a vendor to construct and install broadband fiber from Nixon to Gerlach Library and provide internet services. After a comprehensive review of the RFP proposal, the team accepted Digital Technology Services' (DTS) final proposal bid and has developed the contract for this project. Technology Services is requesting approval of the contract and MOU so the project can begin.

The Pyramid Paiute Tribe has graciously agreed to allow county access to their existing fiber infrastructure and since the construction and installation of the broadband fiber crosses through tribal lands, a memorandum of understanding between Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council was developed to ensure approval of land access and use as well as collaboration throughout the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the construction portion of the contract in the amount of \$2,397,884.83 is 100% funded by the State of Nevada Office of Science Innovation and Technology (30%) and the FCC's Matching (10%), E-Rate Program (60%). Washoe County will have no fiscal impact for the construction and installation of the broadband fiber and equipment and an amount not to exceed \$12,588 annually for on-going monthly

broadband internet service fees. This amount will be requested and recommended for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

Construction and re-occurring annual service cost breakdowns are as follows:

Funding Source	Construction	Year 1 Ongoing Cost
E-Rate Reimbursement 60%	\$1,438,730.96	MAX - \$7,552.80
State of Nevada Governor’s Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) 30%	\$719,365.49	\$0.00
FCC Matching 10%	\$239,788.493	\$0.00
Washoe County	\$0.00	Year 1 - \$5,035.20
Total:	\$2,397,884.93	MAX - \$12,588.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board a) approve a Broadband Contract between Washoe County and Digital Technology Solutions (DTS) for Broadband expansion from Nixon to Gerlach Library as aligned to the Washoe County Strategic direction in an amount not to exceed [\$12,588.00 annually, effective fiscal year 2024/25] as specified within the adopted Technology Services Fund’s operating budget; and b) approve a memorandum of understanding with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to ensure approval of land access.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to a) approve a Broadband Contract between Washoe County and Digital Technology Solutions (DTS) for Broadband expansion from Nixon to Gerlach Library as aligned to the Washoe County Strategic direction in an amount not to exceed [\$12,588.00 annually, effective fiscal year 2024/25] as specified within the adopted Technology Services Fund’s operating budget; and b) approve a memorandum of understanding with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to ensure approval of land access.”