



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 20, 2024

DATE: February 1, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Technology Services
949-444-9939, bzamanian@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Telecommunications Service Agreement between Washoe County and Digital Technology Solutions, Inc. (DTS), for the installation of fiber backbone from DTS's Gerlach Communication Center located at 180 Del Ora Avenue, Unit B, Gerlach, Nevada to street poles in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, as well as to residential properties in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, with installation to be performed during Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, in an amount [not to exceed \$724,720.53]; and direct the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Agreement. As part of the Agreement, Washoe County shall receive a 50% discount on previously contracted DTS business services for Washoe County Community Facilities located in Gerlach (fire station & community center, Sheriff's Office, Roads) for a term of sixty (60) months. It is further recommended that should Washoe County Technology Services staff wish to extend the initial 60-month term for an additional 60-months at a 20% discount on then-current market rates for DTS business services, through a written addendum to the Agreement, the Board authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute such an addendum.

SUMMARY

Gerlach and Empire, Nevada residents do not currently have access to high speed Internet services. This project will enable Gerlach and Empire residents to access high speed Internet solutions that are currently not being provided within these service locations at affordable rates. The provider, Digital Technology Solutions, Inc. (DTS) will install fiber backbone from DTS's Gerlach Communication Center located at 180 Del Ora Avenue, Unit B, Gerlach, Nevada to the street poles in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada. Further, DTS will install fiber connections from the street poles directly to those residential properties in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada which request such installation. Washoe County will supplement the cost of installation of the fiber backbone to street poles and residences in an amount not to exceed \$724,720.53. As part of this Agreement, Washoe County shall receive a 50% discount on previously contracted DTS business services for Washoe County Community Facilities located in Gerlach (fire station & community center,

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Sheriff's Office, Roads) for a term of sixty (60) months. After the initial 60-month term, Washoe County may elect to extend this Agreement for an additional 60 months and shall receive a 20% discount on DTS business services for Washoe County Community Facilities. For Gerlach and Empire residents who elect to have DTS install fiber to their homes, DTS is offering discounted rates on internet plans, phone services, and cellular mobile services for 60-months, and is also offering streaming television services through DirectTV. Gerlach and Empire residents shall be responsible for paying DTS for all such subscriber services they wish to receive.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On May 16, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved and directed the County Manager to submit the recommended 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan to the State of Nevada as required by NRS 354.5945.

On June 28, 2022, the Board approved the construction and installation of broadband fiber from Nixon to DTS's Gerlach Communication Center.. This resulted in the construction of 60 miles of fiber and fiber connection to Washoe County Community Facilities located in Gerlach (fire station & community center, Sheriff's Office, Roads department). As part of the August 28, 2023, Agreement, DTS has been providing Washoe County with internet services at the County facilities.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to enable high speed connectivity to Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, the County partnered with the State and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) to construct 60 miles of fiber between Nixon and Gerlach and also install fiber at the Washoe County Community Facilities located in Gerlach (fire station & community center, Sheriff's Office, Roads department). The Board of County Commissioners approved the agreement covering the construction and installation of the broadband fiber between Nixon and Gerlach on August 28, 2023. Construction of 60 miles of fiber was completed and the County facilities were connected on July 25, 2023. The County facilities are currently receiving high speed internet services from DTS.

This Agreement covers the next phase of the project. During this next phase, DTS will install fiber backbone from DTS's Gerlach Communication Center located at 180 Del Ora Avenue, Unit B, Gerlach, Nevada to the street poles in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada. Further, DTS will install fiber connections from the street poles directly to those residential properties in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada who elect to sign-up for such installation. Washoe County will supplement the cost of installation of the fiber backbone to street poles and residences in an amount not to exceed \$724,720.53. As part of this Agreement, Washoe County shall receive a 50% discount on previously contracted DTS business services for Washoe County Community Facilities located in Gerlach (fire station & community center, Sheriff's Office, Roads) for a term of sixty (60) months at

\$349.50 monthly for the silver package (100 Mbps), \$499.99 monthly for the gold package (500 Mbps) and \$699.99 monthly for the platinum package (1 Gbps).

After the initial 60-month term, Washoe County may elect to extend this Agreement for an additional 60 months and shall receive a 20% discount on DTS business services for Washoe County Community Facilities, discounted from the then-current market rate for such business services. For Gerlach and Empire residents who elect to have DTS install fiber to their homes, DTS is offering discounted rates on internet plans, phone services, and cellular mobile services for 60-months, and is also offering streaming television services through DirectTV. Washoe County will not pay for those subscriber services. Rather, Gerlach and Empire residents shall be responsible for paying DTS for all such subscriber services they wish to receive.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is sufficient budget authority in FY24 in the Capital Improvements Fund (402), Broadband – Gerlach Fiber (PW920232) for the contract amount of \$724,720.53.

Operating costs for Washoe County’s monthly business services provided by DTS will be requested annually in the general fund operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a Telecommunications Service Agreement between Washoe County and DTS for the installation of fiber backbone from DTS’s Gerlach Communication Center located in Gerlach, Nevada, to street poles in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, as well as to residents in Gerlach and Empire, with installation to be performed during Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, in an amount [not to exceed \$724,720.53]; and direct the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Agreement. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute an addendum to the Agreement to extend the initial 60-month term for an additional 60 months at a 20% discount on previously contracted DTS services upon the recommendation of Washoe County Technology Services staff.

POSSIBLE MOTION

If the Board agrees with the recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve a Telecommunications Service Agreement between Washoe County and Digital Technology Solutions, Inc. (DTS), for the installation of fiber backbone from DTS’s Gerlach Communication Center located at 180 Del Ora Avenue, Unit B, Gerlach, Nevada to street poles in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, as well as to residential properties in Gerlach and Empire, Nevada, with installation to be performed during Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, in an amount [not to exceed \$724,720.53]; and direct the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Agreement. I further move that should Washoe County Technology Services staff wish to extend the initial 60-month term for an additional 60-months at a 20% discount on then-current market rates for DTS business services, through a written addendum to the Agreement, the Board authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute such an addendum.

