

# Staff Report

**Subject:** Network Connectivity to Clyo Fire Station

**Author:** Chris Reed, I.T. Director

**Department:** Information Technology

**Meeting Date:** 01-03-2023

**Item Description:** Consideration to approve a service agreement with Planters Communications to provide a Layer 2 fiber Network to the Clyo Fire Station.

## Summary Recommendation:

Taking direction from the 16 May 2022 Board of Commissioners discussion on the lack of broadband internet access in the Clyo and other areas of the county, we asked Planters to provide us with a quote for a 1 Gig Layer 2 fiber Network to the Clyo Fire Station which is currently connected by DSL from Windstream.

## Executive Summary/Background:

Effingham County's communications network supports all of the county departments for both data and telephone communications and connects over 1100 devices with over 400 Full Time employees.

The IT Department has reached out to our current Vendors for quotes on network connectivity to county locations. The network quotes from our vendors were similar in monthly price for this site but the bandwidth differences were extreme. The differences in bandwidth were 30Mb verses 1Gb, it is like the difference in trying to put a house fire out with a straw verses a fire hose. There is one caveat of the 1Gb fiber connectivity, construction cost to get to Clyo. The Fiber construction cost has risen dramatically over the last year and is expected to continue rising over the next few years. If the board chooses to approve this service agreement and pay for construction cost into Clyo then Planters will be able to offer services to residents in the area and along the route taken to get to Clyo. This will greatly benefit the residents of the county by offering options and creating competition in a monopolized market region.

## Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Board approval of the Services Agreement with Planters.
2. Do not approve the Services Agreement with Planters.

## Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative number 1

**Other Alternatives:** N/A

**Department Review:** Information Technology / County Manager / Fire Chief

## Funding Source:

Total: Funding for this was not planned for and budgeted in this year's budget and would require a budget amendment.

## Attachments:

1. Planters Contract (SITE 28).pdf