

Staff Report

Subject: Network Connectivity to Clyo Fire Station and Community Center

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Department: Information Technology

Meeting Date: 03-07-2023

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

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. During the January 3rd Board meeting we were asked to look into options to reduce the cost for this solution and to bring it back to the Board.

Executive Summary/Background:

With the latest direction from the Board and needs of the county we met with Planters to work on cost analysis of this project and also added the Clyo Community Center to the project. By changing the route to get to Clyo, Planters will have the ability to serve 308 houses that are currently underserved. Between the route change and additional opportunities for other customers Planters new cost to the county would be \$350,000 for the mainline buildout. There will also be a service credit on the 2 sites for 7 years saving the county \$50,400 in monthly reoccurring cost. If the county chooses not to take the service credit the upfront buildout cost can be reduced to \$299,600. The total savings from the original proposal is \$105,400.

Planters also provided us with options for additional fiber routes to support more underserved residents in the Clyo area. Currently the county does not have network needs in these areas but the map and cost data is included for your consideration.

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 with upfront cost of \$299,600 with monthly reoccurring cost of \$300 per site.
2. Board approval of the Services Agreement with Planters with upfront cost of \$350,000 with no monthly reoccurring cost per site for 7 years.
3. Do not approve the Services Agreement with Planters.

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative number 1

Other Alternatives:

1. Board consideration and direction for additional fiber routes in the Clyo area.
2. Postpone and budget project for next budget year.

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. Effingham Fiber Route to Clyo (Totals).pdf
2. Effingham Fiber Route to Clyo (Map).pdf
3. Additional Effingham Fiber Routes (Totals).pdf
4. Additional Effingham Fiber Routes (Map).pdf
5. Planters Contract (SITE 28).pdf (original contract from Jan 2023)