



GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA DATE: July 23, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consider a motion to approve the purchase and installation of firewall and switch equipment by Paul Bunyan Communications and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement for a one-time cost of \$43,874.75.

PREPARED BY: Mike LeClaire, Information Systems Department Manager

BACKGROUND:

The current server and networking infrastructure, including the firewall and core switches, has exceeded its useful life and no longer meets the demands of our system architecture. As technology advances and cyber threats increase, this outdated hardware poses significant risks to network security, reliability, and scalability.

Upgrading the firewall and switches is necessary to comply with current cybersecurity standards and IT best practices. The new equipment will offer enhanced threat detection, intrusion prevention, and traffic control—critical tools for maintaining a secure and resilient network.

The updated infrastructure will also support future growth, including increased use of applications, remote access, and overall network demand. A backup firewall is also recommended to ensure business continuity, providing seamless failover in the event of a failure or cyber incident.

This upgrade is included in the 2025 capital budget and represents a strategic investment in reducing risk and supporting long-term operational needs. The service for the purchase and installation falls under the IT Managed Services Agreement with Paul Bunyan under additional services at an hourly rate.

For security reasons, the detailed IT agreement is not included in the public agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the purchase and installation of firewall and switch equipment by Paul Bunyan Communications and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement for a one-time cost of \$43,874.75.