

VILLAGE OF HOMewood



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: January 13, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Purchase of Network Switches

PURPOSE

Staff requests that the Village Board approve the purchase of network switches from Urban Communications, Inc. of Oak Forest, IL via Ruckus Network of Sunnyvale, California, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$77,647.72.

PROCESS

When the Village received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2022, staff identified several projects that would strengthen long-term operations and infrastructure. One of those priorities was upgrading core network switches at the Police Department to support future expansion and handle the increased data traffic anticipated with a transition to high-speed fiber optic internet provided by Urban Communications, Inc.

In early 2025, the Village formally approved Urban Communications, Inc. as its future high-speed fiber optic internet provider. Since that time, staff has worked closely with Urban Communications to prepare for the transition. The installation of the new network switches represents the final step in that process.

Urban Communications assisted the Village in obtaining vendor quotes for the required equipment. Initial hard quotes exceeded the original budgeted amount. However, when combined with increased streaming and operational demands at the Police Department and a rebalancing of capital projects, staff determined there was an opportunity to expand the project scope and evaluate more robust equipment options. As a result, additional proposals were solicited. While the proposals varied widely in cost, they were comparable in performance, with one proposal in particular standing out with a significantly reduced price.

What are networks switches?

A network switch is a foundational piece of modern network infrastructure that allows multiple devices within the same building or facility to communicate efficiently with one another. Switches connect computers, printers, phones, servers, security cameras, and other equipment. This targeted delivery improves network speed, reduces congestion, and enhances overall reliability.

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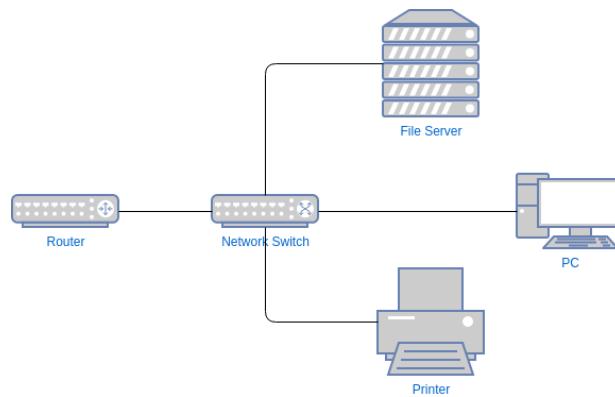
Unlike routers, which connect separate networks and provide access to the internet, switches operate within a single network, such as inside a municipal building, public works facility, or office. In practice, most organizations rely on both: routers to manage external connections and switches to manage internal traffic. Network switches come in several forms depending on need:

Unmanaged switches- offer simple, plug-and-play connectivity with no configuration required and are often used in small or low-complexity environments.

Managed switches- provide advanced capabilities such as traffic monitoring, network segmentation, security controls, and prioritization of critical systems, making them ideal for larger or more sensitive operations.

Power over Ethernet (PoE) switches- supply both data and electrical power to devices like security cameras, wireless access points, and VoIP phones through a single cable.

Network switches function as the traffic controllers of a computer network; quietly and efficiently directing data to its intended destination.



The Village identified managed switches as the preferred solution because they offer the flexibility and customizable configuration needed to effectively meet the Village's operational and technological needs.

Cost breakdown

Below is a breakdown of prices for the network switches that Urban Communication, Inc. was able to secure for the Village.

Network Switch Provider	Cost
Ruckus Network	\$77,647.72
Fortinet Inc.	\$87,268.45
Aruba Networks	\$294,973.93

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OUTCOME

Purchasing and installing the new network switches will deliver significant and lasting benefits to the Village by strengthening the reliability, security, and capacity of its core technology infrastructure. These upgrades position the Village to fully leverage its investment in high-speed fiber optic internet while ensuring that critical municipal operations can function efficiently both today and in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Obligation Bonds Proceeds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$90,000.00
- **Cost:** \$77,647.72

LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve the purchase of network switches from Urban Communications, Inc of Oak Forest, IL via Ruckus Network of Sunnyvale, CA, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$77,647.72.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Ruckus Network Proposal
- Fortinet, Inc. Proposal
- Aruba Networks Proposal