

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: October 13, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Purchase of Servers

PURPOSE

Staff requests that the Village Board waive competitive bidding due to the availability of the equipment and authorize the purchase of server hardware, licensing, installation, and configuration from AIS Labs, of Oakbrook Terrace, IL in the amount of \$37,680.

PROCESS

Previous Board Approval

The Village Board previously considered the purchase of new server infrastructure at its July 28, 2026 meeting. At that time, staff recommended purchasing two Lenovo servers through government purchasing via CDW-G in the amount of \$25,927.58. The servers were intended to be installed at the Police Department and Public Works Department to provide additional redundancy for the Village's IT infrastructure.

At the time of the original recommendation, staff evaluated comparable server configurations from AIS, Dell, and Lenovo.

Manufacturer	Total Cost
AIS	\$37,680.00
Dell	\$86,104.70
Lenovo	\$25,927.58

Updated Vendor

Since the July Board meeting, staff has continued to research the pricing and availability of server hardware and licensing. The enterprise server market continues to experience significant pricing and inventory challenges. Staff has identified an acceptable solution that will improve the resiliency of the Village's infrastructure, while providing the Village with equipment that should meet its needs until server pricing and inventory conditions improve.

As part of this approach, the Village Hall servers require additional memory modules to extend their useful life and improve performance. Staff has already purchased the necessary memory modules through a State purchasing contract in advance of an additional anticipated price

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increase. New operating system licensing is also being purchased through the same State contract.

Staff now recommends moving forward with AIS Labs for the server hardware, licensing, installation, and configuration at a cost of \$37,680. AIS has access to server hardware that is currently available and can provide a complete solution without exceeding the amount budgeted for the project.

What is a server?

A server is a specialized computer that stores the Village's data and runs the software and network services that Village employees rely on every day. The servers perform the following operations:

- store files and documents.
- host applications such as finance, permitting, payroll, and utility billing software.
- manage user accounts, passwords, and network security.
- store email and shared drives.
- run network applications.

Why new servers are needed?

The Village currently operates a central server at Village Hall that supports many of the applications and services that employees rely on each day. While that server remains operational, it will require replacement in the future as the hardware ages and the operating system reaches the end of its supported life.

In the meantime, staff recommends installing additional servers at the Police Department and Public Works Department. These servers will provide redundancy by allowing critical systems and data to continue operating if the Village Hall server or network experiences an outage. They will also improve performance by distributing workloads across multiple locations and strengthen the Village's disaster recovery capabilities, ensuring essential public safety and municipal operations remain available during emergencies. It is also prudent to add redundant server infrastructure to Public Works and the Police Department to fully leverage the Village's new network topology.

OUTCOME

This solution will provide redundancy for the Police Department and Public Works for many local services in the event that there is an outage at Village Hall.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Capital Fund
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$50,000.00
- **Cost:** \$37,680.58

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LEGAL REVIEW

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Waive competitive bidding due to the availability of the equipment; and, authorize the purchase of server hardware, licensing, installation, and configuration from AIS Labs, of Oakbrook Terrace, IL in the amount of \$37,680.00.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Proposals