



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

October 2, 2026

To: Honorable City Council

From: James A. Gallup, City Manager
Bettina Chandler, City Recorder
Allen Gillespie, IT Manager

Re: Request to waive competitive bidding procedures for IT Purchases for Broadband Readiness Community Grant

The City was awarded a \$100,000 reimbursable no-match grant from the Tennessee Broadband Readiness Community Grant. The City Recorder and I have been copied on the emails between the IT Manager and the State regarding delays in contracting and the State backdating the contract to February and holding us to a deadline of October 31st to expend the funds with no option to extend. In speaking with the program coordinators for this grant, we are not the only community under this time constraint due to contracting delays.

Per city policy, the City Council may waive the competitive bidding process if it is unanimous upon the City Manager's written recommendation that it would be clearly to the advantage of the city. I've reviewed the IT Manager's bid tabulations to confirm that he has done his due diligence.

Therefore, it is my recommendation given the time constraints placed on us that the City Council waive the competitive bidding process for this purchase and other purchases pertaining to the Tennessee Broadband Readiness Community Grant.

Very respectfully,

James A. Gallup, MPPA

City Manager
(865) 343-9993