



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT AGENDA ITEM REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Allen Gillespie, IT Manager
DATE: October 1, 2026
SUBJECT: Request to Waive Competitive Bid Requirements – Tennessee Broadband Ready Community Grant

BACKGROUND:

- The City was awarded a \$100,000 Tennessee Broadband Ready Community (BRC) Grant through TNECD for public Wi-Fi expansion, network infrastructure, digital training facilities, and public information displays across four City facilities: City Hall, the Police Department, Fire Station I, and Fire Station II/Community Center.
- The grant contract was delayed at the State level and backdated to February 2026, with all eligible expenses due by October 31, 2026. Due to the compressed timeline, scope across four facilities, and the specialized nature of the low-voltage installation required, a standard competitive bid process is not feasible. Multiple vendors were contacted; only one qualified contractor, Safe-N-Sound LLC, was able to accommodate the scope and timeline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total grant award is \$100,000 and is fully reimbursable through the State of Tennessee. No local general fund dollars are required. All expenditures will be submitted to the State for reimbursement upon completion.

REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

I am requesting that City Council waive the competitive bidding requirements and the standard purchasing threshold for all expenditures associated with the BRC Grant, due to the October 31, 2026 deadline, the specialized nature of the work, and the inability to secure multiple qualified vendors within the required timeframe. This will allow the City Manager to execute the attached contracts with Safe-N-Sound LLC so work can begin immediately.

ATTACHMENTS:

Safe-N-Sound LLC Installation Proposals (via PandaDoc)
Bid Tabulation Form