



**Levy County Board of County Commissioners**  
**Procurement Department**  
**310 School Street**  
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November 21, 2023

Memo:

We are currently completing structures for the proposed towers needed for the P25 Project. The County owned Bronson Tower at the Sheriff's Office will not support the new equipment for the P25 Project. This is a critical site that will house the primary system core "brains of the system" and the link to the dispatch center. The new system cannot be built without this tower.

With the help from Federal Engineering, we researched other options in the Bronson Area. The only options that we found were the Crown Castle Tower at the Road Department and the ATC Tower behind the Racetrack. Both towers were loaded with other tenants making adding our equipment difficult. Another issue noted was getting the information back to the dispatch center which would require the County to bury fiber from the tower site several miles back to the dispatch center or using an additional microwave hop which was not build into the system design and would still require a tower at dispatch. We concluded that replacing the tower at the Sheriff's Office was the most cost-effective option.

Clayton reached out to 3 different tower companies (Nextower, Independent Network Services, and Don Barber inquired about doing a ground lease at the Bronson Tower Location). Don Barber advised that he does not do ground leases, INS came out and looked at the site but did not reply with a proposal.

Nextower was the only company to provide a proposal to build a tower that meets our needs for free, in return the County would lease the ground space to Nextower, similar to the lease that the County has with Crown Castle at the Road Department. Clayton met with the Sheriff to discuss any security concerns he had with this option. The Sheriff approved this as the tower company would no need access to any sensitive areas and the tower would be fenced off at the existing location of the current tower.

Clayton feels the Nextower option would be the best and most cost-effective option. If the County chose to build their own tower at Bronson, the cost is estimated to be around \$500K. The Nextower proposal offers getting a free tower and could potentially be making money with the ground lease and cost-sharing option.