

Grant County – Resolution 2023-129

Fiber Optic Network Cost-Share Agreement

This Fiber Optic Network Cost-Share Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into as of June 19, 2023 by and between Grant County, Oklahoma with its principal place of business at 112 E. Guthrie Street, Room 102, Grant County, and KanOkla, a Kansas corporation, with its principal place of business at 100 Kanokla Avenue, Caldwell, KS 67022.

Recitals

- A. The ISP has been awarded the USDA Community Connect grant to improve broadband access in underserved areas within the City of Medford.
- B. The ISP has applied for the Grant and has proposed a cost-share program with the County to share costs on the Grant.
- C. The Project Proposes to serve the citizens of the City of Medford located within Grant County, Oklahoma.
- D. Grant County and the ISP desire to enter into this Agreement to formalize their cost-share program and to set forth the terms and conditions under which the ISP will expand its fiber optic network within the County.

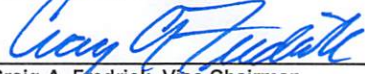
Agreement


- 1. Grant Match Funding. Grant County agrees to provide financial support to the ISP for new fiber optic network within the City of Medford which is the county seat of Grant County, OK. The amount of financial support provided by Grant County will shall be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).
- 2. Minimum Service Obligations. In exchange for the financial support, the ISP agrees to provide a minimum level of service to funded locations of 100/100. The ISP shall use its best efforts to provide high-speed internet access to underserved areas within the City of Medford and to offer affordable internet plans to low-income residents within the City of Medford.
- 3. Monitoring and Reporting. The ISP shall provide regular updates to the Grant County on the progress of the fiber optic network expansion, including the number of locations served, the speed and quality of the internet service being provided, and any other information reasonably requested by the County.
- 4. Term and Termination. This Agreement shall remain in effect for the duration of the Grant funding period, unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement of the parties or for cause. Either party may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party in the event of a material breach of this Agreement. The County will pay the ISP the lump sum of the match amount upon conclusion of the project.
- 5. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
- 6. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, understandings, and agreements between the parties, whether written or oral.
- 7. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

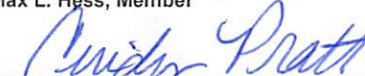
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GRANT COUNTY, OKLAHOMA


Steve Stinson, Chairman

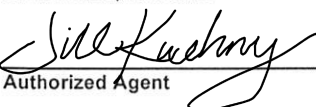

Craig A. Fredrick, Vice Chairman


Max L. Hess, Member


Cindy Pratt, County Clerk



KANOKLA
CALDWELL, KANSAS


Authorized Agent

CEO
Title

Statement of Need:

The City of Medford is considered unserved or underserved with regards to fiber services, meaning citizens cannot receive service with 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload speeds.

While advancements are being made in copper and fixed wireless technologies, fiber optics is the most future-proof technology for meeting the growing demand for faster, more reliable, and more secure communications networks.

We estimate that if unsubsidized, it will cost providers over \$6.5M to bring fiber optics to all citizens of Medford.

The availability of reliable and high-speed broadband internet access is crucial for economic growth, education, healthcare, and various other aspects of modern life. Recognizing its importance, the United States government and the State of Oklahoma has implemented several grant programs aimed at supporting and expanding broadband infrastructure across the country. The grants are competitive in nature and emphasize the value of public-private partnerships and co- investment.

Fiber optic deployment can have a significant positive impact on economic development, including increased rural migration, job creation, increased property values, cost savings for businesses, and improved quality of life for residents.

- FTTH Council Americas found that having a fiber broadband connection increased property prices by 3.1%- the equivalent of adding a new fireplace or half of a new bathroom. Those properties with 1 Gbps connections sold for an average of 7% more than those with broadband of 25 Mbps or lower.
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 17.9% of the workforce, roughly 27.6 million people, work primarily from home as of 2021. The ability to work from home is dependent on robust broadband access.

City of Medford Broadband Strategic Plan

Introduction

This broadband strategic plan outlines the goals and strategies for improving broadband access and adoption in the underserved areas within the City of Medford. The plan sets forth a comprehensive framework for partnering with stakeholders and leveraging available resources to achieve these goals.

Goals

The broadband strategic plan is focused on achieving the following goals:

1. Improve broadband access in underserved areas within the City of Medford.
2. Increase broadband adoption rates among the City of Medford residents.
3. Promote economic growth and development through enhanced broadband infrastructure.

Strategies

To achieve these goals, KanOkla (IPS), will implement the following strategies:

1. **Government Grants:** Apply for and secure government grants to fund infrastructure projects that will improve broadband access in underserved areas within the City of Medford.
2. **Cost-Share Program:** Enter into cost-share agreements with KanOkla, an Internal Service Provider (ISP), to leverage government grant funding and expand broadband infrastructure in underserved areas within the City of Medford.
3. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote broadband adoption and enhance broadband infrastructure within the City of Medford.
4. **Outreach and Education:** Increase public awareness of the benefits of broadband access and adoption and provide resources and education to help the City of Medford residents take advantage of available broadband services.
5. **Performance Monitoring:** Regularly monitor broadband infrastructure performance to ensure the City of Medford residents are receiving high-quality broadband services and that broadband providers are meeting their contractual obligations.

Cost-Share Program

As part of the City of Medford's broadband strategic plan, the Board of County Commissioners of Grant County, Oklahoma, will enter into a cost-share program with ISPs to match costs on government infrastructure grants. Under this program, Grant County will provide financial support to the ISP for the purpose of providing the citizens of the City of Medford with new fiber optic networks within the jurisdiction of the City of Medford. The total program cost to Grant County will not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

The ISP must have applied for and received State or Federal grant funding for the infrastructure project. Grant County will provide financial support of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) as co-investment dollars to be distributed only if and when the State or Federal grant is awarded. In order to qualify for the Cost-Share Program, the ISP must inform Grant County of their intent to apply and obtain a letter of support as part of the grant application process.

In exchange for the financial support, the ISP will provide a minimum level of 100/100 service to the funded locations within the City of Medford. This will include offering affordable internet plans to low-income residents within the City of Medford.

The cost share program will be administered by the Grant County Board of Commissioners which will monitor the progress of the infrastructure project and ensure that the ISP is meeting its obligations under the agreement.

Conclusion

By implementing the strategies outlined in this broadband strategic plan, Grant County aims to improve broadband access and adoption rates within Grant County, promote economic growth and development, and ensure that Grant County residents have access to the high-quality broadband services they need to thrive in today's digital economy.

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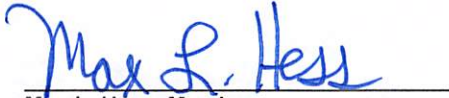
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