

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 5, 2021
TO: RuthAnne Hall, Purchasing Agent
FROM: Chris Blanding, Chief Information Officer
SUBJECT: Emergency Procurement of Telecommunication Services

Background:

The Lake County enterprise currently has (12) physical, digital telecommunications connections, that enable multiple voice and data lines to connect with our private branch exchange system. These voice and data lines are connected to various telephones and facsimile machines throughout multiple departments and offices. The service for these voice and data lines is provided by First Communications, LLC, and is delivered over copper line infrastructure.

Recent legislative and regulatory changes in the telecommunications industry has authorized carriers to remove or discontinue various services that rely on copper line infrastructure to both their private and public customers.

Enterprise Information Technology received notice from First Communications, LLC, that the copper line infrastructure for several of our physical connections were being decommissioned effective September 1, 2021. Decommissioning of the copper lines would render those physical digital telecommunications connections useless and would subsequently cause severe disruption to County services.

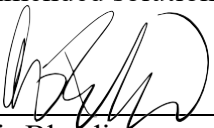
With approximately 60 calendar days left to implement a solution, Enterprise Information Technology worked with First Communications on a resolution to transform the technology and prevent any disruption to County services.

Scope of Work:

First Communications, LLC will install physical devices that will transform the voice and data lines targeted for decommission and enable those signals to be transmitted across the County's internet connection. The scope also includes acceptance of a master agreement for the continued monthly service of the voice and data lines provided through First Communications, LLC, for a not to exceed amount of \$65,000.00 over the next twelve months.

Finding:

Given the potential for severe disruption of County services, Enterprise Information Technology found that an emergency exists pursuant to the terms as defined in Article 6-103 of the Lake County Purchasing Ordinance in effect on August 5, 2021 and that finding justifies the need to move forward with contracting with First Communications, LLC, to implement the recommended solution.



Chris Blanding,
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Information Technology

08.26.2021

Date