



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: April 20, 2023

TOPIC: FirstNet Product Information

PREPARED BY: Jordan Stephen

Recommended for:

- ☒ Action
- ☒ Discussion
- ☒ Information

Purpose/Background:

Staff and student safety is a priority across Campus. During the school year, our Administrative team has had the opportunity to learn and prepare for events that might include utility outages, fire, weather related events and even times where the District might need to relocate. Reliable communication is a vital part of any of these processes.

FirstNet is a nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband network with technologies and features specifically built for public safety. FirstNet, which is built by AT&T, provides much more than just another cell network. The FirstNet network was designed for first responders all over the country. It prioritizes the traffic of its subscribers, providing them with a reliable, 24/7 unthrottled network in which to use apps, devices and solutions, during an emergency, to ensure that their messages and communications take top priority over the general public.

The District has been investigating how to improve our communications during situations. Working with FirstNet, the District will purchase a total of 4 smartphones, 1 device for each building, and keep them located in a secure location at the schools and the administration center. In the event of any emergency or disaster, those phones would be utilized across the district. These devices will be equipped with access to the FirstNet network that features unthrottled data, unlimited talk, unlimited texting, and complete priority access to the FirstNet network. These devices will also be equipped with Push to Talk applications that can be used between the devices as well as installed mobile applications used by District personnel to access information or send out communications.

District Legal Counsel has reviewed the Service Agreement and Contract and found it acceptable noting that it is effectively identical to the terms approved in previous contracts. Legal Counsel did note that the Agreement contains a mandatory arbitration clause and the governing law is listed as the state of New York. Much like other Agreements, AT&T has not shown any willingness to modify these provisions, yet the District has approved a number of other AT&T contracts without objection.

Costs:

FirstNet Monthly Service Charge (State of IL)			
Description	Quantity	Monthly Price	Total Monthly Price
FirstNet Unlimited Smartphone Plan <i>Un-Throttled, truly unlimited talk, text, data plan, with priority</i>	4	\$38.49	\$153.96
Enhanced Push to Talk Add-on Feature	4	\$2.00	\$8.00
Total Monthly Service Charge	4		\$161.96
FirstNet Equipment Charges (State of IL)			
<i>Equipment Charges</i>	Quantity	One Time Cost	Total One Time Cost
iPhone 13 (128GB)	4	\$99.99	\$399.96
Total One-Time Equipment Fees	4		\$399.96

Note: 911 fees and local taxes and charges apply to this contract in the same manner as our primary telephone lines

Fiscal Impact: Estimated

\$2,343.48.

- \$1,943.52 per year / \$161.96 per month plus taxes and fees.
- \$399.96 Initial cost of equipment for outlined locations.

Recommendation:

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Finance Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to approve the one time purchase of \$399.96 for equipment to be used with FirstNet.

It is also the Administrative recommendation that the Finance Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to approve the contract in the amount of \$161.96 plus required taxes and fees, for monthly services between May 24th, 2023 and May 23rd 2024.