AGENDA
ITEM

SUBJECT: Consider approval of technology upgrades via E-rate and local funds.

RATIONALE:

The Schools and Libraries program, also known as the E-rate program, makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries in America. Mandated by Congress in 1996 and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission in 1997, the E-rate provides discounted telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries, funded by the [Universal Service Fund](#) (USF).

Eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium. Funding may be requested under two categories of service: category one services to a school or library (telecommunications, telecommunications services and Internet access), and category two services that deliver Internet access within schools and libraries (internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services). Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is located in an urban or rural area. The discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services. E-rate program funding is based on demand up to an annual Commission-established cap of $3.9 billion.

Through calculations of GISD being a rural school district and the number of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program, Graham ISD qualifies for an 80% discount for eligible services through the E-rate program.

During the spring of 2015, Graham ISD, with the assistance of CRW Consulting, completed two E-rate applications – Category 1 and Category 2 that included the following goals:

Category 1

- Continue local and long distance voice services, cell phone service, Internet access, and Ethernet WAN services at a discounted rate.

Category 2

- Increase stability and speed at every campus with firewall and backbone upgrade by reducing bottlenecks

- Increase wireless stability and saturation at all elementary campuses and select areas that are using old, out of date wireless technologies

- Update infrastructure to handle additional wireless and future update to VoIP

- Organize all technology closets

In May 2015, the district's Category One funding request was approved for $122,309.89 for reimbursement for services.

In October 2015, the district received confirmation of the district's Category Two funding request of $244,992.00 via E-rate reimbursement.

The scope of work required to accomplish to goals set forth in the E-rate application includes:

- Sonicwall firewall/content filter upgrade. Not able to utilize full Internet speed with current hardware. This will allow for full 1GB speed to be used while using content filtering, gateway antivirus, and antispyware. Proposed device will allow for future expansion of speed and additional hardware.

- Upgrade of all intercampus backbones to 10GB fiber. Replacement of all outside lines to fiber.

- Wireless upgrade for Woodland, Crestview, Pioneer, Learning Center, DAEP, Junior High gym, and the High School field house. Will replace 7 year old HP wireless with new Xirrus arrays that support new wireless technologies and the amount of devices being used in the classroom, with room for expansion.

- Additional network drops for future VoIP expansion, includes all classrooms, offices, and other rooms that will require a phone.

- Upgrade of all MDF and IDF closets, server rooms, to handle additional network drops and power needs for wireless and VoIP. Labeling and reorganization of all closets and cabling for ease of access, troubleshooting, and safety.

The total project budget to complete the proposed projects is $428,020.00. Less the E-rate funding of $244,992.00, the district portion will be $183,028.00.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the board approve the proposed project and amend the budget by $428,020.00.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Sonny Cruse
Don Davis
Jayne Beale
Chris Rasile