

Graham Independent School District Board Agenda Item Synopsis

Subject: Update on the eRate Funded Wireless Upgrade

Background Information:

This is the final year for the 5 year Category 2, CAT2, eRate funding cycle. Category 2 includes internal connections including wireless, network equipment, and other infrastructure items. We have an existing \$36,000 remaining that has to be spent this year. Next year we will start a new 5 year funding cycle that should give the district a new budget with approximately \$380,000 total funds to use over the next 5 years. eRate allows us an 80% discount on hardware, installation, and support for these projects due to our socioeconomic status.

Our Technology Department is planning a multi-year project to upgrade the aging wireless district-wide. The plan will be to utilize the \$36,000 from this year's funds and finish the project next year with the start of the new budget cycle. The project will include 62 network drops and 265 wireless access points with 5 year warranty and support.

Administrative Consideration:

This year is the beginning of a 2 year project. Tonight we are communicating this information in order for the board to be aware of this project.

Budgetary Impact:

This year, the cost is included in the regular annual budget for \$8,100. Next year the cost to the district will be approximately \$68,000.

Total cost over 2 years, before discount, would be \$339,000, however the district cost after the eRate discount will be \$76,000.

Recommendation: Information Only.

Meeting Date: February 12, 2025