



## **PROSPECT HEIGHTS DISTRICT 23 FINANCE AND BUILDINGS & SITES COMMITTEES INFORMATION ITEM**

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**Date:** April 25, 2025

**Title:** 2025-26 Technology Priorities

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The following items represent the largest Technology priorities in the FY26 Budget. These items will require some summer work so they are being brought to the Committees for review:

### **Cabling Replacements - Approximate Cost for MacArthur and Grodsky: \$155,000**

The integrity of our cabling runs, after our last big upgrade, thought to be around the time of the geothermal work, and years of other work with and around the cables, is declining. While the move to newer cable will help with bandwidth speeds, the much more pressing issue is the integrity of the existing cable as it ages. The routing and bundling of the cabling has been compromised over years of projects and construction. This project is E-Rate eligible, albeit we will still use all our Category 2 E-Rate funding with future cabling work, including: our firewall renewal, needed UPS updates, and yearly managed internal broadband service (MIBS) payments. The cost to run new cabling, clear out old cabling, and make the drops in each space consistent is \$155,000. In talking with our partners at Low Voltage Solutions (LVS), we know this will only get more expensive, with LVS saying potential increases could be between 5 and 10 percent in subsequent years.

### **Phone Server Replacement - Approximate Total FY26 Cost: \$74,028**

As part of our network roadmapping with Empist, when looking at safety and minimizing operation disruptions, one of the identified items is moving our phone system to being cloud hosted. This upgrade is a project for us now as one piece of support expires and another expires in two fiscal years.

This past fall, the service support expired for the platform for our calling system, and this requires an upgrade regardless of our move to the cloud or staying with an on-prem server. The support for our current physical phone server expires in February of 2028; however, as the server ages, there is an increased likelihood of service calls and issues that could occur. As part of our roadmapping with Empist and having a goal of moving services to the cloud and off prem, we believe this summer is the best time to make this move. No part of this is currently E-Rate eligible. The cost for FY 26 is \$74,028, with subsequent years costing \$17,759 for our yearly licensing subscription cost. By moving to the

cloud, we also bypass the one-time cost of having to upgrade just the platform for our calling system, as that would be moot with the move to the cloud.

**Informacast Emergency Notification System - Approximate Total Cost: \$15,700**

It is time to renew our Informacast emergency notifications; they allow for emergency alerts to phones across the district. If we move to the cloud for our phone system, we would need to also upgrade our Informacast products. Like the phone server, the current licensing model we have is on a finite timeline; end of support seems to be either FY 27 or FY 28. No part of this is currently E-Rate eligible. By upgrading this service now, we can expand our emergency alert system as we look at greater district safety processes. The cost for FY 26 is \$15,700, with subsequent yearly licensing subscription costs being \$3,804.

This document serves as an overview of current Technology priorities and as required, will be brought to the Board for review and approval.