



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Future Item for the City Council Meeting of December 10, 2013
Action Item for the City Council Meeting of December 17, 2013

DATE: November 21, 2013
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Michael Armstrong, Director of Municipal Information Systems
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Agreement with Texas A&M University recognizing the City as a sub-recipient for a Federal grant for fiber connectivity to permit finalization of grant activities.

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement with Texas A&M University for an expenditure of \$144,000.00 to replace disallowed in-kind funding for a BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunity Program) federal grant awarded to Texas A&M University in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and to recognize the City as a sub-recipient for funding from that grant.

PURPOSE:

Approval of this allows fiber connectivity within the City of Corpus Christi to City and A&M facilities with access for the City to A&M resources including Internet, Disaster Recovery, and Business Continuity resources.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

In 2009, as part of the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), the US Congress established the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). Corpus Christi, acting through the Corpus Christi Digital Community Development Corporation (CCDCDC), submitted a preliminary request for funding under that program. That application was not successful.

Shortly thereafter, Texas A&M University asked if we would like them to include our rejected projects as part of their application for the second round of funding under the BTOP program. We agreed, and offered in-kind participation as our contribution to the project. Texas A&M's application was accepted, and work has been ongoing for more than two years.

The CCDCDC was dissolved on July 31, 2010. All network assets were returned to the City at that time.

During closeout for the Texas A&M project, the federal government determined that the City of Corpus Christi would be considered to be a sub-recipient under terms of the grant. This was an unforeseen circumstance, as was the disqualification of certain in-kind contributions. The disqualified in-kind items totals \$144,000. The requested funding will restore the City's participation to the original budgeted level. This amount is available in the MIS Network Services

budget.

The benefit we have received is substantial including:

1. Fiber-optic connections to seven (7) City buildings. Operating cost reductions for libraries and fire stations.
2. Fiber connections to other facilities in which the City has an interest.
3. Fiber connection to Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and to the state's high speed backbone that can reach any connected facility in the Texas system.
4. State-of-the-art switching equipment for the Wilson Center hub.
5. Up to 1 (Gigabyte) Gb of internet bandwidth at no cost to the City.

Please note that the project was initially budgeted at \$655,000 in 2010. Increases in construction cost and modifications to submitted plans requested by the City contributed to the final cost of \$1,000,000. This project was one of nine that was covered by the BTOP grant and cash contributions by Texas A&M (total budget of \$9.1 million). Corpus Christi was the only city to participate in this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

Removal of connectivity through fiber in underground conduit removes City network services for the listed sites with exception to ON Stevens and OSO Water treatment plants. All sites would continue on either sub-standard connectivity and slower or intermittent connectivity.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

This agreement allows us to bring on additional services such as Internet and Disaster Recovery through Texas A&M which allows the city to cut back on paid services and decrease operating costs.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

This agreement and subsequent payment conforms to City purchasing policies and procedures and state statutes regulating procurement.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Not applicable

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

X Operating Revenue Capital Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2013-2014	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget		\$144,000.00	0	\$144,000.00
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item		\$144,000.00	0	\$144,000.00
BALANCE		0	0	0

Fund(s): Municipal Information Systems

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the motion as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Texas PIPES Sub-Recipient Agreement
Exhibit A – Schedule M (City's In Kind submittal)
Exhibit B – Texas A&M documentation of Work Completion