



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 18, 2025

DATE: March 18, 2025

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Peter Collins, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology
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Astound Enterprise Fiber Service

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing execution of a three-year service agreement with Astound Business Solutions, LLC, of Austin, through the TIPS Cooperative, in the amount of \$191,520.00 for redundant fiber connections to the City's backup data center, City Hall, and the Police Department; for a redundant connection between City Hall's data center and the City's Service Center facilities; and to increase internet speeds at the American Bank Center, with FY2025 funding of \$27,120.00 from the Information Technology Fund and \$4,800 from the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

The motion authorizes an agreement with Astound Business Solutions LLC, formerly known as Grande Communications Networks LLC, regarding the City's enterprise fiber services. These additional services will provide a redundant internet fiber connection to the backup data center, a redundant internet fiber connection for City Hall and the Police Department, expanded internet speeds at the American Bank Center, and a redundant connection between the City Hall data center and the City's Service Center facilities. The Information Technology Department will manage this agreement.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

City Services:

Currently, the City and the Police Department use two of the three major internet providers in Corpus Christi: Spectrum and AT&T. Establishing redundancy between these circuits will ensure reliable connectivity for City services in the event of a failure or outage. This redundancy is crucial for disaster recovery, enabling the swift restoration of communication channels during unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, it enhances business continuity, allowing operations to continue even during network disruptions.

Implementing redundancy for internet and phone services is a proactive measure that keeps the city resilient and well-equipped to handle any challenges that may arise.

The American Bank Center:

The American Bank Center, along with its customers, will benefit significantly from an upgrade in service, increasing the current 1GB circuit to a 10GB circuit. This enhancement will provide faster connectivity and an overall improved experience. With this substantial increase in bandwidth, the American Bank Center will be better equipped to meet the needs of its customers for live-streaming events, such as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi men's and women's basketball games, as well as professional rodeo events during Buccaneer Days.

City's Service Center:

The City's Service Center is a central hub for connecting multiple departments throughout the City of Corpus Christi. Adding a backup connection will strengthen our infrastructure and ensure that all departments can maintain access to vital services and information, even during a fiber cut. By implementing this redundancy, we will create two paths of connectivity, and we can significantly reduce the risk of downtime and improve overall operational efficiency.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

The procurement is through the TIPS Cooperative. Contracts awarded through the TIPS Cooperative have been competitively procured in compliance with local and state procurement requirements.

ALTERNATIVES:

Keep the current services at the data center, American Bank Center, City Hall, and Police Department without redundancy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact to the Information Technology Fund in FY 2025 is \$27,120.00 and \$4,800 from the General Fund, with future years budgeted through the annual budgeting process.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	5210: Information Technology Fund
Organization/Activity:	40420: IT Infrastructure and Network Service
Department:	23: IT Department

Project # (CIP Only): n/a
Account: 530065: Internet and Data Circuits

Fund: 1020: General Fund
Organization/Activity: 11870: Police Building Maint & Oper
Department: 29: Police
Project # (CIP Only): n/a
Account: 530200: Telephone

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this motion authorizing the execution of a cooperative agreement for a three-year service agreement as presented.