



County of El Paso Agenda Item Details

Item Title:	Economic Development - USDA ReConnect Cotton Valley Connect Broadband Project Offer Letter (Contract No. 2024-0617)
Submitted By:	Roberto Ransom, Director
Department:	Economic Development
Department Phone Number:	915-546-2177
Subject:	Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the award offer letter from the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$2,850,000 for the implementation of the Cotton Valley Connect broadband project. No County funds are required. (Contract No. 2024-0617)
Background:	<p>Congresswoman Veronica Escobar announced the inclusion of \$2.8 million in funding for the Cotton Valley Connect Project in the Fiscal Year 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Appropriations bill.</p> <p>This funding would be used by El Paso County to provide reliable access to public broadband service, via wireless mesh service, to an estimated 3,256 students across Fabens and Tornillo ISDs. Staff has submitted all requirements to the USDA and been offered an award letter and grant agreement. This item is only for the acceptance and approval of the award letter, as the grant agreement is currently under review by staff and the County Attorney's Office.</p>
Fiscal Impact:	<p>Fiscal Impact Historical n/a</p> <p>Fiscal Impact Projected n/a</p> <p>Long Account Number: Amount:</p> <p>Long Account Number: Amount:</p>
Budget or Unbudgeted Match:	No match

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the award offer letter from the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$2,850,000 for the implementation of the Cotton Valley Connect broadband project. No County funds are required. (Contract Number #2024-0617).

Prior Action:

3/25/24: Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the necessary certifications to comply with the USDA ReConnect Program requirements to receive funding for the Cotton Valley Connect broadband community project. (Contract No. 2024-0265).

1/08/24: Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. to provide technical grant application assistance and project design and installation services as part of the Cotton Valley Connect broadband community project. (Contract No. 2023-0884)

8/21/23: (ARP-1150) Approve the purchase of Cotton Valley Connect Broadband Project for the County of El Paso using Equalis Group Purchasing Program-Region 10 Education Service Center Proposal EQ-013120-01, awarded to Insight Public Sector, Inc. of Tempe, Arizona in the amount of \$2,798,761.26. Funding is available in SG-ARPLAN21-OPERATING EX.

Strategic Plan:

Goal:

2. Transform Economic Development

Objective:

2.1 Develop Community Broadband service

Strategic Plan Information:

n/a

**Estimated Time Needed
For This Item:**