

RFP for Municipal Fiber Optic Network

Introduction

The City of Ottawa is seeking proposals to purchase its municipal fiber optic network for use in building out a fiber to the home network to serve the citizens of the community.

The Governing Body of the City of Ottawa places a high priority on the provision of broadband services as a means of commerce, communication, quality of life, economic development, and retention and attraction of residents to the community.

The City built its own fiber backbone when private industry could not make the business case for serving community institutions and large businesses through direct fiber connections. With recent government actions and newly available funding, the provisioning of broadband services at scale to every business and residence in the City has become more feasible. The City desires to determine whether there are proposals that would purchase and use the City's current fiber assets to cost effectively deliver broadband services to every part of the community.

Background Information

The current network consists of mostly aerial fiber with varying pairs of single mode fiber strands located around the city. (See attachment) This includes dark fiber that crosses the Marais des Cygnes river and dark fiber that traverses under Interstate 35 south of the City. The age of the network varies from 13 years to present day. The fiber network is currently used to connect City of Ottawa infrastructure and provide high-speed internet to businesses and anchor institutions in the city.

This RFP does not include fiber inside of city buildings. See attachment for network details.

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals must include the following information:

- The proposed purchase price for the network.
- The company's service quality and/or customer feedback scores.
- The company's financial statements for the last 24 months.
- The company's construction plan to provide "fiber to the home," including the build-out timeline, the percentage of the city that will be covered by the network, and the amount of fiber that will be in-ground and overhead.
- The company's proposed service and cost tiers to ensure affordable service for all citizens.
- The company's ownership, including whether it is local, national, or global.
- The company's willingness to continue providing free Wi-Fi services at City parks.
- The company's intention to create and maintain an office within the City of Ottawa corporate limits.
- The company's willingness to leasing dark fiber to other providers.
- Costs and lease term for leasing back fiber in use to City of Ottawa and anchor institutions.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Purchase Price.	40 points
2. Construction Plan.	20 points
3. Cost of leasing back fiber to the city and anchor institutions. and continuing existing services	10 points
4. Financial Health & Ownership	10 points
5. Customer Service Score.	10 points
6. <u>Community Presence & Office</u>	<u>10 points</u>
Total	100 points

Contact Information

There will be a Question-and-Answer session at 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2023, in the Commission Room at City Hall. City staff will be available to answer questions about the fiber network.

For more information or questions, please contact:

Paul Sommer, IT Director
Email: psommer@ottawaks.gov
Phone: 785-229-3641

Submission Process

Proposals must be titled "Fiber Optic Network RFP" and submitted in a sealed envelope in care of the City Clerk at 101 S Hickory, Ottawa, KS 66067 by 10:00 a.m. October 20, 2023. Proposals received after this time will not be accepted.

Proposals will be publicly opened on October 20, 2023, at 10:15 a.m. in the City Hall Commission Room by city staff.

RFP Award Process

Proposals will be collected and evaluated by City Staff. All proposals will be considered property of the City of Ottawa, are matters of public record, and may be subject to disclosure by the City after the announcement of awards.

The review team will make a recommendation to the City's Governing Body for approval. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, and all decisions by the Governing Body are final.

The City will notify applicants of the results of their proposals in November 2023.

The submitter of the successful proposal will receive an award letter specifying any additional requirements deemed necessary by the City. Additional requirements may include but are not limited to: creation of a contract for sale, bill of sale, earnest money payment, updated financial information, updated build out information and necessary documents required to close on the sale.

Disclosure of Relationship/Conflicts of Interest Prohibited

Applicants must disclose any current or former City employees acting as a consultant or interested party. City employees may not receive a financial gain from the acceptance of any proposal under this RFP.