BOT Meeting:	February 24, 2020
Solicitation No.:	RFP 20-054LJ
References:	Board Policy Scalable Systems
Description:	**LAN Equipment and Related Services** **Recommendation** Consideration and possible approval of the continued purchase of infrastructure electronics and support services to implement voice, wireless, and data services at new schools, and to support existing District sites, from Netsync Network Solutions in an amount not to exceed $1,400,000, and authorization for the Superintendent to negotiate and execute the agreements through February 2021. **Summary** On October 8, 2019 Fort Bend ISD issued RFP 20-054LJ soliciting proposals for Local Area Network (LAN) infrastructure equipment and related services for one elementary school rebuild project for 2020, one new elementary school slated for 2021, two new school additions for 2020 and 2021, one support site renovation for 2020, and one new agricultural facility for 2020. The bid will also be used for any new construction entities added to the District that require new LAN infrastructure equipment and related services during the life of the contract. Fort Bend ISD is eligible for the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate Program, officially known as Universal Service Schools and Libraries Discount. E-Rate is a federally funded rebate program for school districts that helps to offset the costs of communications infrastructure required to connect instructional facilities to the internet. The program helps to ensure schools and libraries have the ability to obtain telecommunications and Internet access at affordable rates. Using E-Rate program discounts and funding from Bond 2014, Information Technology Services (ITS) began refreshing campus LAN infrastructure in 2015 to meet the growing need for campus technologies that rely on digital infrastructure such as security cameras, mobile wireless devices, the new classroom toolset, wireless BYOD, and internet access for instructional and administrative needs. Staff planned and executed LAN infrastructure purchases to meet E-Rate requirements in order to maximize the reimbursement available using E-Rate Category 2 budget for each campus. Each year, Fort Bend ISD selects service providers through a fair and open bidding process, requests funding commitments from the E-Rate program, purchases eligible services and equipment, and receives rebates for approved purchases. Fort Bend ISD's E-Rate discount rate for 2019-20 will be 60 percent, which is determined by calculating the percentage of students in the District that qualify for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

| | It is the District's desire to seek a rebate for as many of these purchases as possible in order to take advantage of the savings from the E-Rate programs.

Since the E-Rate program provides a rebate, the District will purchase eligible equipment and services based on District needs and will seek reimbursement for 60% of the funds spent. Equipment will be purchased and implemented, as new campuses are ready. In addition to new purchases, existing network infrastructure will be supported through this bid.

The construction of new schools requires new LAN equipment to provide networked services for these campuses including wireless network, wired network, phones, computers, building automation systems, security cameras, and any other devices requiring network connectivity for functionality. This equipment connects campuses to the dark fiber District Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) for access to Admin and co-location datacenters which house District applications such as PeopleSoft, Winocular, Kronos, WebCtrl (Building Automation), video storage for security cameras, and other critical application infrastructure. The LAN infrastructure also provides classroom level internet access through the datacenters to Office365, Schoology, Skyward, and other internet-based resources. This bid will also facilitate on-going needs for network technology to include operational needs as well as small projects and initiatives.

Background

Expenditures in 2018-19 were $1,046,829. Expenditures in 2019-20 are $1,284,665. Expenditures will not exceed $1,400,000 through February 2021 and funding is included in the budget. The District will seek E-Rate federal reimbursement for eligible equipment and services. |
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| Requested By: | Long Pham, Chief Information Officer
Bryan Guinn, Chief Financial Officer |
| Vendors: | Netsync Network Solutions |
| Budget Sources: | Bond Funds, General Funds, Technology Service Funds |
| Amount: | Not to Exceed - $1,400,000 through February 2021 |
| Other Supporting Information | |
| Sole Source: | No |
| Number of vendors contacted by Purchasing: | 1302 |
| Number of vendors contacted by FBISD Notification System: | 5593 |
| Number of vendors downloaded the solicitation: | 367 |
| Number of responses received: | 4 |
| Number of "no bid" responses received: | 0 |
| Length of commitment: | Through February 2021 |
| Last solicitation date: | August 29, 2018 |
| Supporting documents: | Evaluation Summary and Criteria |

Disclosure under Board Policy CH, CV, or DBD (Local):	None