

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a contract with **Elevate Technology Group** for **Private Broadband Connectivity at Carmen Smith**.

Board Meeting Date: 12/7/2021
Project Name/Contract #: Private Broadband Connectivity Contract 21-243-S
Primary Contact: Rod Price Ext. 7122

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$240,000 over 5 years
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Invoices over last approval: \$0
Percentage over last approval: 0%
Amount this Request: \$240,000 over 5 years
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$240,000 over 5 years**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Direct Negotiation
If applicable, basis for exemption: EWEB Rule 3-0275 Sole Source Procurements
Term of Agreement: Five years
Option to Renew? No
Approval for purchases *“as needed”*
for the life of the Contract: Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): NA
Selection Basis: Sole Source Supplier

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

In 2020, EWEB entered into a temporary agreement with Elevate Technology Group to allow installation of point-to-point microwave circuits on the towers at Smith Ridge and Belknap Bluff. This was used to provide connectivity to the fire-affected upper McKenzie community, including schools, shelters, gas stations, Forest Service ranger stations, etc. As a shared benefit, EWEB was provided a network connection that provided a redundant link to our corporate phones, email, security systems and other critical applications. The temporary communication link replaced all the existing fiber links that were destroyed in the fire in the upper McKenzie area and were months away from restoration. Elevate covered the costs to help provide internet connectivity to the area.

Now that the previous service has been restored to the area, Elevate has applied to make their connection permanent on the EWEB owned towers at Smith Ridge and Belknap which was recently approved. The benefits of having the dedicated secondary link for connectivity for Carmen Smith have been important during the short period it has been available. During multiple system outages and upgrades during 2021, the backup link has maintained critical system connections to the EWEB staff at Carmen Smith. As noted earlier, this includes the EWEB security system, Real-time Traders, corporate phones, email, internet to the EWEB operator’s homes and Wi-Fi phone service for cell phones.

Additionally, connectivity is also supplied to the AlertWildfire camera installed on the Smith Ridge Tower. The camera is part of a network of cameras that provide critical real-time monitoring of wildfires.

Contracted Goods or Services

Private Broadband connectivity to Carmen Smith facilities including the AlertWildfire camera.

Purchasing Process

There are currently no other alternate providers for broadband connectivity to Carmen Smith and the surrounding areas. For these reasons, Staff has deemed Elevate Technology Group to be a sole source provider for private broadband connectivity.

BIDS RECEIVED

NA

Competitive Fair Price

There are currently no commercially viable options available that provide the bandwidth needs to support all of the systems and applications at Carmen Smith.

Prior Contract Activities

NA

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a contract with Elevate Technology Group for private broadband connectivity. Approximately \$48,000 will be planned for these services in the upcoming Electric O&M 2022 budget. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.