

## EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

*For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases*

The Board is being asked to approve a contract and additional funds with **GE Grid Solutions LLC** for **JMUX Replacement Equipment – LAST BUY Purchase Options**.

Board Meeting Date:	July 8, 2025
Project Name/Contract #:	JMUX Replacement Equipment – LAST BUY Purchase Option
Manager:	Scott Milovich Ext. 7408
Executive Officer:	Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

### Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount:	\$140,000 (Not previously approved by the Board)
Additional \$ Previously Approved:	\$0
Spend over last approval:	\$0
Amount this Request:	\$205,000 (Original \$140,000 plus an increase of \$65,000)
% Increase over last approval:	NA
Resulting Cumulative Total:	<b>\$205,000</b>

### Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation:	Direct Negotiation
If applicable, basis for exemption:	EWEB Rule 3-0275, Sole Source Findings SS-373
Term of Agreement:	One Time Purchase
Option to Renew?	No
Approval for purchases “as needed”:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposals/Bids Received (Range):	NA
Selection Basis:	Sole Source Findings
Narrative:	

### Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

EWEB currently utilizes GE Grid Solutions JungleMUX SONET Multiplexers (JMUX) across its substations as the primary data transport medium. The JMUX equipment is a vital component of EWEB’s teleprotection system. This equipment allows relays to communicate with each other, limiting trips to only the faulted sections. This helps prevent widespread outages, damage, and costly interruptions. With over 53 active nodes, EWEB has made a significant investment in this technology, which has consistently delivered high-performance, reliable service since its deployment in 2000. The use of JMUX aligns with EWEB’s operational requirements for secure, resilient, and high-availability communications infrastructure. This approach also supports EWEB’s strategic plan by ensuring continuity and reliability in substation communications—an essential component of modern grid operations.

GE announced on short notice the discontinuation of its JMUX product line, setting a final purchase deadline for July. With limited time to respond, EWEB quickly secured a final order of critical spare parts to support ongoing operations and maintenance. Additional components will be purchased to meet the needs of upcoming capital projects. These last-minute purchases are intended to ensure continuity of service and maintain system reliability

as EWEB gradually transitions to a next-generation communications platform, in alignment with its long-term strategic goals.

#### Contracted Goods or Services

EWEB placed a Last Buy purchase for JMUX products for future O&M needs in May, and Engineering staff have determined that an additional purchase of JMUX products are necessary for upcoming capital projects.

#### Purchasing Process

GE does not license their JMUX design to other vendors and other products are not directly compatible due to the nature of the system. For these reasons, Staff has deemed GE Grid Solutions LLC to be a sole source provider for this equipment, therefore Staff directly negotiates purchases.

#### Prior Contract Activities

EWEB has previously purchased and uses the JMUX Sonet Multiplex node equipment across our substations and has found their products to be satisfactory and meet EWEB's product quality requirements.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Management requests the Board approve a new contract with GE Grid Solutions LLC for JMUX Replacement Equipment – LAST BUY Purchase Option. Approximately \$140,000 was planned for these goods in the Support Services O&M budget of \$19 million and approximately \$65,000 was planned for these goods in the 2025 Electric Capital budget of \$77.9 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

**BUDGET CATEGORY:** Support Services O&M, Materials and Supplies, and Electric Capital, Type 1, Substations