

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve additional funds for **Internet Services** with **Link Oregon**.

Board Meeting Date:	July 8, 2025
Project Name/Contract #:	Internet Services / 20-201-S
Manager:	Daniele McCallum Ext.7891
Executive Officer:	Travis Knabe Ext. 7770

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount:	\$225,000 (November 2, 2020)
Additional \$ Previously Approved:	\$0
Spend over last approval:	\$0
Amount this Request:	\$35,000
% Increase over last approval:	15.5%
Resulting Cumulative Total:	\$260,000 (November 2020 – June 2029)

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation:	Direct Negotiation
If applicable, basis for exemption:	EWEB Rule 3-0275, Sole Source Findings SS-417
Term of Agreement:	Extended through June 30, 2029
Option to Renew?	Yes, while EWEB remains a member of the non-profit consortium
Approval for purchases “as needed”:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposals/Bids Received (Range):	Direct Negotiation
Selection Basis:	Sole Source Findings
Narrative:	

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

Link Oregon is an Internet Service Provider (ISP) who provides high-speed, fiber optic broadband connectivity to Oregon’s public and non-profit sectors. Link Oregon allows EWEB a unique opportunity to participate in a high-speed, high-capacity, fiber-optic network allowing for enhanced collaboration and data sharing with government agencies across Oregon. Link Oregon’s fiber network has a diverse path from our other ISP, which provides EWEB with physical path redundancy. This redundancy is critical for business continuity.

Contracted Goods or Services

EWEB is purchasing internet services. Link Oregon was established as a non-profit consortium in 2019 in affiliation with Oregon state government (through Oregon’s Enterprise Information Services), Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon. Link Oregon provides a public broadband network to Oregon agencies through a high-capacity, resilient network service platform.

Purchasing Process

EWEB signed Link Oregon's Network Access Agreement in 2020, which allows EWEB to purchase internet services as a member of the consortium. In 2020, the original Board-approved amount for these services was not fully utilized, resulting in an underspend of approximately \$90,000. Due to this underspending, and based on updated cost projections, we are requesting an increase of only \$35,000 to cover the next four years.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB previously purchased internet services from the Network for Engineering and Research in Oregon (NERO) group. NERO became a member of the larger consortium, Link Oregon. EWEB leveraged NERO's unique services for decades, and Link Oregon since 2020.

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approved	Project Duration (Start to Close)	Original Amount	Approved/Amended Amount to Date (Total)	Reason Code
20-201-S	Internet Services	11-2-2020	5 years	\$225,000	\$225,000	
PO-20040	Internet Services	NA	1 year	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Reason Code: AM = Additional Materials, AW = Additional Work, EW= Emergency Work, SD = Staff Directed, UC = Unforeseen Conditions, Other						

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve an increase to the contract with Link Oregon for internet services. Approximately \$30,000 was planned for these services in the 2025 IS Division budget of \$12.2 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Information Services O&M, Information Services Division, Utility Services