

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: City of Slidell

Project Title: City of Slidell, Louisiana Broadband Project

Project Type: Middle Mile

Executive Summary

There are three City of Slidell anchor institutions that will be participating in this proposed project: City of Slidell Government St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District #1 City of Slidell Police These agencies do not currently have access to high speed secure mobile communications for personnel that would enable efficient response, data retrieval/sharing and reporting capabilities. Although, there are several commercial high speed data systems available in and around the Slidell area, these systems do not offer network access that meet secure Public Safety standards. The proposed system seeks to address this problem. The City of Slidell is the largest municipal jurisdiction in St. Tammany Parish. Currently, the type and level of services provided by City government, Police and Fire are driven by a moderately growing community of approximately 28,000 citizens that reside within the City of Slidell plus an additional 50,000 – 60,000 non-residents living nearby or adjacent to its city limits. According to 2006 Census data, Slidell is home for 9480 households and 3304 businesses. All citizens, both residents and non-residents, continuously utilize many of the same facilities within the city (schools, hospitals, recreational parks, shopping malls, restaurants, etc.) that, in turn, are served by these agencies. Today, Slidell ranks as the fifteenth largest city in the State of Louisiana. The City of Slidell is located approximately 25 miles north of the City of New Orleans and serves as a hub and a critical contraflow thoroughfare for three major interstate highways that leads to New Orleans, Louisiana to its South, Hattiesburg, Mississippi to its North, Gulfport, Mississippi to its East and Baton Rouge, Louisiana to its West. Unfortunately, hurricane Katrina proved just how important the role of all City, Fire and Police emergency response personnel depends on data retrieval and sharing. The city suffered catastrophic damage. Over 51% of its jurisdiction was underwater, resulting in the total loss of 10 municipal government buildings. The majority of technology within the City government, Fire and Police were lost. The inability to access and retrieve essential data put an additional burden on emergency response, recovery and restoration efforts. This disaster proved the critical need for a secure, standards based network that facilitates data sharing and interoperability between different disciplines. Simply put, interoperability coordination is essential and invaluable. City government is committed to emergency response planning. All of these activities must function at a high level of proficiency during these times in order to preserve the life and property of its citizens. The implementation of a secure wireless broadband network will provide all participating agencies the resources for an alternate source of interoperability communications. Today, some 145 highly dedicated men and women are assigned to the various divisions found within the Slidell Police Department. Law Enforcement has transitioned from a reactive method of policing to an information demanded strategic operation where simply keeping up with criminal element is not sufficient. St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1 employs 150

administrative and fire personnel. This fire unit also provides the community critical first responder medical care. Government officials and their 239 dedicated City employees must continue to provide and maintain the quality of life services necessary to sustain a viable community. Although, all of these agencies provide a wide spectrum of responsibility, all agree, the major ingredient toward maintaining community quality of life and responder safety is the ability to access critical information in a timely manner. If this grant funding is successful, it will provide secure wireless broadband equipment to the three anchor institutions participating in this project (City government, Fire, Police) allowing mobile access to numerous systems and databases that facilitate the response of personnel and enhance the performance for these activities. These agencies currently use the local ISP provider Charter Communications for internet access. The proposed project will integrate network interconnection to these resources that will allow private citizens, businesses, Police School Resource officers staged in four local high schools and junior high schools and local hospital emergency rooms with First Responder medical Fire personnel to use their own means of internet access to reach designated anchor institution websites. This grant project proposes a self forming-self healing dual radio Mesh Network and will be implemented conforming to IEEE 802.11 standards. Access to mesh access points will be at 4.9GHz – 802.11a - and 2.4 GHz – 802.11a/g – as necessary. In addition to the 802.11a backhaul radio in the mesh access point, additional backhauling of the mesh network will be accomplished using Point to Multipoint OFDM radios operating in the 5.4GHz band as well as Point to Point OFDM radios operating in the 4.9GHz Public Safety Band and at 5.8GHz as necessary. The City of Slidell stands committed to the success of this project if funding is secured. We have already successfully applied and received grant funding through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act regulated by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and two Bureau of Justice Byrne/JAG grants. These funds will provide the initial basic Police infrastructure and a minimum level of distributed end user equipment for a secure 4.9Ghz licensed wireless mobile broadband mesh network. This project is referred to as Phase 1 throughout the remainder of this application. MOTOROLA is the vendor chosen by the City of Slidell to implement the current Police broadband project Phase I. Choosing to partner with MOTOROLA for this proposed project will facilitate immediate project implementation and also enable acquisitions through the use of Louisiana State Contract purchasing, thus, eliminating the need for tedious sealed bid processes or delays. In addition, they will lead the Project Management team. They will enter into this proposed project with stability, experience and technical ability that currently lead the marketplace in this technology field. The three anchor institutions (City government, Fire, Police) all have existing technology departments that will be key team members and contribute to the project implementation and management of daily operations. The overall proposed project (referred to as Phase II throughout the remainder of this application) cost projections: Network Infrastructure Equipment Cost \$1,992,407.50 Network Subscriber Equipment Cost \$1,460,109.00 Network and Subscriber Implementation Cost \$2,439,733.00 TOTAL \$5,892,249.50 Total anchor institution subscriber projections are: Police Department 145 St Tammany Fire Protection District #1 150 City Government 239 The activities involving installation and maintenance of the proposed equipment will allow local merchants to benefit from this funding opportunity by enabling them to provide required project services and equipment sales that are necessary to keep their businesses operating. According to job opportunity estimates provided by MOTOROLA, the proposed project Phase II has the potential to provide and/or secure 53 jobs both instate and out of state. In addition, City government, Fire and Police will be able to

support its efforts to retain, at a minimum, current staffing levels without sacrificing essential services. The benefit that will be seen by reducing the number of manpower hours that are currently expended on needless field to office travel will allow the agencies involved to redirect resources that provide citizens and businesses necessary services in a more cost productive manner.