

ADDENDUM #1

February 18, 2020

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL: 3 pages

TO: ALL PLAN HOLDERS AND POTENTIAL BIDDERS
FROM: TIFFANY McCANTS, PURCHASING OFFICER
SUBJECT: CELLULAR SERVICES FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS - 2020



(RFP# 3-20)

The following specifications and drawings are hereby made a part of the original documents. Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of this addendum by notation in the space provided on the Proposal Form.

Addendum includes: Questions from bidders and answers from the BCS Technology Team.

Addendum #1

RFP# 3-20

Q.1. We have our consumer offer and a mission critical platform. Mission critical is the same as public safety. Pricing is the same as consumer, just a different platform. How many would we need to price out that would be mission critical?

A.1. Our desire is to replace all current budget line phones with Enhanced Push To Talk type devices if the monthly per line charge is in line with other currently available bus driver/budget line monthly pricing. The rollout would need to be no charge for the initial device. We also may want EPTT/PTT on some or all SmartPhone lines. We may also need to convert between 50-100 budget lines to SmartPhone lines.

Q.2. Do your schools have Wi-Fi in them today?

A.2. Yes. Every classroom and common area has Wi-Fi.

Q.3. How many hotspots do you need year one?

A.3. We are a 1M Project (HS) participant and anticipate/hope to be a Project 10 Million participant next school year so we may not need more than a handful from a non T-Mobile/Sprint carrier(s) for any cellular coverage gaps.

Q.4. Can you describe how the evaluation process from 2018 may vary from this 2020 RFP?

A.4. This is a Best Value procurement as indicated in the RFP.

Q.5. What is the district's policy on Wi-Fi calling to support connectivity in low coverage areas in lieu of booster/repeater technology?

A.5. BCS plans to begin supporting Wi-Fi calling in March 2020 using IP-SEC tunnels to carrier specific Wi-Fi calling IP addresses and allow listing carrier specific Wi-Fi calling domains.

Q.6. Will vendors/carriers be able to tour/evaluate district areas of concern?

A.6. Walkthroughs will be conducted on Monday, February 24, 2020 starting at 8AM at North Buncombe High School, 890 Clarks Chapel Road, Weaverville, NC 28787. All visitors must report to the main office.

Q.7. How does the district support or require priority services for cellular with SROs?

A.7. The SROs are Buncombe County employees and therefore carry Buncombe County provided cellular phones and are not on our contract. See answer A.5.

Q.8. Where does the development of 5G fit into the strategic plan of the district? There is no notice of 5G in the RFP.

A.8. We do not anticipate 5G service being widely accessible outside the city limits within the timeline of this contract. However, vendors are encouraged to provide current and projected 5G coverage maps.

Q.9. Would you provide more detail on customer support expectations beyond the need for portal access and 48hour turnaround on new devices?

A.9. Occasionally (rarely) we may need to be able to quickly replace a lost or stolen or damaged device for an administrator on the weekend in a brick and mortar store.

Q.10. What is the district's policy towards "SmartCampus" solutions that impact the efficiency and safety of district staff and students? These may include, but are not limited to, traffic mitigation, intelligent video security, parking management and/or cybersecurity resources.

A.10. Vendors are encouraged to describe their value-add services including pricing for any currently available additional fee add-on services.

Q.11. How does the carrier implementation of carrier "small cells" impact the RFP, and is the district open to conversations for small cells to be implemented on district property for the purpose of increasing coverage or capacity?

A.11. At this time Buncombe County Schools is not looking to lease space for small or large cell towers. Vendors are welcome to propose implementation of low-powered cellular "public" radio access nodes that have a range of 10 meters to a few kilometers as an alternative proposal.