



BRADFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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School Board of Bradford County REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL E-Rate Year 2027

**Wide Area Connectivity
Bid Number: 26-1119-002
470#: 270002467**

Greg Gobs
I.T. Director
501 W. Washington St.
Starke, FL 32091

School Board of Bradford County
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
26-1119-002 (470# 270002467)

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The School Board of Bradford County (hereinafter referred to as “The Customer”) is seeking proposals for Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity through a qualified service provider. The Customer herein requests proposals for these services as described in the attached specifications from interested persons (hereinafter known as “The Vendor”). The Vendor must submit a bid for all areas and show an integrated approach with respect to hardware, services and support. Prices quoted shall be all inclusive. The Customer reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive any technicalities and award all or part of the contract in a manner that is in the best interest of the School Board of Bradford County.

This RFP and the successful Proposer’s response will be made part of any contract awarded from this RFP. The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Contact Person for this RFP is:

Greg Gobs
I.T. Director
501 W. Washington St.
Starke, FL 32091
904.966.6003
Erate@mybradford.us

1.2 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following is the schedule of events for the project. The schedule of events is subject to change, any changes will be posted via an addendum to the form 470.

Event	Date
1. Release of RFP to Bidders	10/22/2026
2. Proposal Questions Due	11/05/2026
3. Deadline for Proposal Submission	11/19/2026
4. Installation Completed	WAN <u>MUST</u> be in place and operational by July 1, 2027**

Because the E-Rate funding year begins on July 1, all services must be installed and operational by that date. Failure to do so may result in costs that are ineligible for E-Rate reimbursement and unrecoverable by the Customer. Therefore, every effort should be made to ensure services are in place by July 1, 2027.

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1.3 CURRENT SYSTEM AND CONNECTIVITY LOCATIONS

The School Board of Bradford County is presently using a WAN with a minimum of 200 Mbps of service to each school location and 1 Gbps at the District Office located at 501 W. Washington Street, Starke, Florida 32091. The customer is seeking proposals for WAN services that meet or exceed the current level of service and support the Customer's present and future bandwidth requirements. Applicant prefers leased-lit fiber, but all modes of transportation that meet the service specifications of this 470 will be accepted and evaluated.

The following sites should be considered the sites involved in the network. All network connections should come back to the district office.

School	Address
1. District Office – 1Gbps (Demarc)	501 W. Washington St., Starke, FL 32091
2. Lawtey Elementary School – 200 Mbps	22703 North Park St., Lawtey, FL 32058
3. Bradford Elementary School – 600 Mbps	3856 SE 144th St, Starke, FL 32091

SECTION II

WIDE AREA NETWORK CONNECTIVITY AND INTEGRATED SERVICES

2.1 WIDE AREA NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

The Vendor must provide Wide Area Network (WAN) data transport connectivity with a minimum bandwidth of 200 Mbps to Lawtey Elementary School, 600 Mbps to Bradford Elementary School, and 1 Gbps to the District Office. It is anticipated that the school district may require additional bandwidth in the future as its needs grow. The Vendor's network must be capable of accommodating service of up to 2 Gbps with easy and quick upgrades.

2.2 WAN CONFIGURATION

Vendor must supply survey, design, procurement, and configuration of the WAN to provide the requested network services. This configuration includes installing/laying fiber, installing/erecting towers, obtaining all permits, surveying, zoning requests, and inspections required by law, statute, or ordinance. Network services are to be installed at all the sites listed in section 1.3 with demarc of vendor's services to be provisioned at the school on an Ethernet interface provided by the vendor at the Customer's designated demarc.

2.3 INTEGRATED SERVICE SOLUTIONS

Vendor must provide (at no additional cost), any and all Integrated Service Solutions that are inherent functions of its network.

SECTION III

MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND TRAINING

3.1 24 X 7 PROACTIVE MONITORING SERVICES

Vendor should provide proactive monitoring of its infrastructure components at all times.

3.2 TROUBLE TICKETING SERVICES

Vendor must provide a trouble ticketing system, available via a Web Interface, for district technical personnel to report issues and track resolution status. A toll free number to the monitoring center shall also be provided.

3.3 DISPATCH SERVICES

Vendor must provide dispatch support services for maintenance of its infrastructure equipment. These dispatch services should occur within four (4) hours of notification of a failure in an infrastructure equipment component. Vendor must have WAN field Technicians to repair/replace/support:

- WAN infrastructure components
- Towers (if necessary)
- Radios
- WAN cable/fiber
- WAN Switch/Router

SECTION IV VENDOR QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 VENDOR REFERENCE LIST

Bidding vendors must provide a reference list of schools where they have prior experience providing Wide Area Network connectivity services, as defined by the Universal Service Administrative Company, and where successful E-Rate applications were funded.

4.2 VENDOR EXPERIENCE

Vendors must give at least three (3) examples of experience with installation of medium to large scale interconnected sites that have equal broadband connectivity services (200 Mbps or greater) to each site; at least one of these examples must be similar in size and scope to the requirements of this RFP (See Section 1.3). The Vendor must also provide a minimum of three (3) references for Network Connectivity services of similar work, both in scope and design that have completed by the vendor within the last five years.

SECTION V

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

5.1 RESPONSE SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted via email to Erate@mybradford.us by November 19, 2026.

It is the sole responsibility of the respondents to ensure that their responses arrive in a timely manner. The Customer may reject late arrivals. The vendor must submit a signed copy of their proposal, along with any required supporting documentation via email to Erate@mybradford.us.

Responses must be for the entire project. No substitutions or partial bids will be allowed. Oral, telephone, mailed, faxed, or telegraphed bids shall not be considered, nor will modifications of bids by such communication be considered. The completed bid form shall be without erasures or alterations. Prior to commencement of work, Vendor shall name the Customer as an additional insured for liability purposes. Compliance with other District policies, including drug-free workplace requirements, proof of workers' compensation coverage, and bonding requirements, is also required.

Proposals must be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

5.2 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PREPARATION OF THE VENDOR'S RESPONSE

The Customer will not be liable for any costs incurred by the respondents in preparing responses to this RFP or negotiations associated with award of a contract.

5.3 INTERPRETATION AND CHANGES

The intent of this RFP is to communicate the Customer's requirements to any qualified and interested bidder. Our intention is to receive bids for the system as stated in Section 1 of this RFP. The Customer may make corrections or changes to the RFP. If the Customer makes changes or corrections to the RFP it will be via an attachment/addendum to the form 470.

5.4 ADDENDUM

It will be the responsibility of all respondents to check the USAC portal prior to submitting a response to the RFP to ascertain, if any ADDENDUM has been issued, and to obtain any and all ADDENDUMS, execute them, and return the ADDENDUM with the response to the RFP.

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5.5 QUESTIONS

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation must be emailed and received by November 5, 2026. Questions should be directed to Erate@mybradford.us with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the FCC Form 470.

5.6 PROPOSAL BIDDING PERIOD

Pricing submitted in the Vendor's proposal shall remain valid and available for the duration of the applicable E-Rate funding year and throughout the E-Rate review, award, and implementation process associated with this procurement. The Vendor acknowledges that the Customer intends to seek E-Rate funding for the requested services and may rely upon the pricing and terms submitted in response to this RFP when filing FCC Form 471 and related E-Rate documentation. The Vendor agrees to honor the proposed pricing and terms through the completion of the E-Rate funding commitment process and for the period of service associated with the awarded contract.

5.7 OMISSIONS

Omissions in the proposal of any provision herein described shall not be construed as to relieve the Vendor of any responsibility or obligation to the complete and satisfactory delivery, operation, and support of any and all equipment and services.

5.8 E-RATE FUNDING CONTINGENCY

This agreement is contingent upon the Applicant receiving sufficient funding approval through the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate Program as administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). In the event funding is reduced, denied, or cancelled for any reason, the Applicant reserves the right to cancel or modify the affected services without penalty, subject to applicable FCC and USAC rules.

The Applicant shall be responsible only for its non-discounted share of approved E-Rate eligible products and services and any non-eligible products or services. Vendor shall provide invoices consistent with the invoicing method selected by the Applicant, including Service Provider Invoicing (SPI) or Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR), as applicable.

The parties agree to cooperate in preparing and submitting any documentation required by FCC and USAC rules, including forms, certifications, funding requests, invoicing support, and audits.

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Funding approvals, FRNs, discount percentages, and committed amounts are subject to review and modification by USAC. Vendor shall comply with all current FCC and USAC E-Rate requirements throughout the term of the agreement.

5.9 VENDOR REGISTRATION WITH UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

The vendor must comply with all FCC and USAC E-Rate program requirements. The vendor must maintain a valid SPIN (498 ID), file and maintain an annual FCC Form 473 (SPAC), provide all information necessary for E-Rate applications and invoicing, and cooperate with the Applicant in meeting all E-Rate documentation and audit requirements.

5.10 CONTRACT TERM

Please provide pricing for a **12-month contract with four optional 12-month extensions**.

Services are needed effective July 1, 2027.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will NOT extend the contract term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Service providers proposing equipment whose prices may increase depending upon new U.S. government tariffs imposed on imports are encouraged to (a) identify such products in their offers, and (b) propose an acceptable methodology for limiting price adjustments over the life of the contract. Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement, including renewal periods.

5.11 PRICE QUOTATION

Proposals must include all costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to: Monthly Recurring Charges (MRC), Non-Recurring Charges (NRC), and Special Construction Charges (SPC).

Respondents should provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service.

Price quotations are to include the furnishing of all material, equipment, maintenance and training manuals, tools, and the provision of all labor and services necessary or proper for the completion of the work.

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As required by Section 54.500(f) of Part 47 of the Code of Federal Regulation all bids in response to this RFP must offer the lowest corresponding price (LCP) which is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-Rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/> for more details.

By submitting a proposal on the requested services herein, the vendor certifies its proposed services and/or products comply with Part 47 Section 54.9 and 54.10 of the FCC rules which prohibits the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE, or any other covered company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.

See <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/> for more details

5.12 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria and priorities defined by the School Board of Bradford County. Per USAC E-Rate rules, “cost of eligible services” will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with a lesser value may also be considered. Proposals will first be screened based upon compliance with the base requirements. The evaluation criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

FACTOR	WEIGHT
Price of E-Rate Eligible Services	40%
Prior Experience	30%
Continuity and Viability	20%
References	10%
Total	100%

5.13 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In connection with the execution of this contract, the Vendor and subcontractors shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, age, or national origin. The Vendor shall take affirmative action to ensure that minority and disadvantaged applicants are employed and employees are treated during their employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age or national origin.

5.14 FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Equipment requiring FCC registration or approval shall have received such approval and shall be appropriately identified and the responsibility of the vendor.

5.15 SAFETY

The Vendor shall take the necessary precautions and bear the sole responsibility for the safety of the methods employed in performing the work. The Vendor shall at all times comply with the regulations set forth by federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations concerning "OSHA" and all applicable state labor laws, regulations and standards. The Vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Customer from and against all liabilities, suits and damages, costs and expenses (including attorney's fee and court costs) which may be imposed on the Customer because of the vendor, subcontractor, or supplier's failure to comply with the regulations stated herein.

5.16 PATENTS AND ROYALTIES

The Vendor, without exception, shall indemnify and hold harmless the Customer and its employees from any liability of any nature or kind, including costs and expenses for or on account of any trademarked, copyrighted, patented, or non-patented invention, process, or article manufactured or used in the performance of the Contract, including its use by the Customer. If the Vendor or subcontractor uses any design, device, or material covered by letters, patent, trademark, or copyright, it is mutually understood and agreed without exception that the proposal prices shall include all royalties or costs arising from the use of such design, device, or material in any way involved in the work.

5.17 INDEMNIFICATION

The Vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Customer, its agents and employees from or on account of any injuries or damages, received or sustained by any person or persons during or on account of any operation connected with the contract; or by consequence or any negligence in connection with the same; or by use of any improper material or by or on account of any act or omission of said Vendor or its subcontractors, agents, servants or employees. The Vendor further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Customer, its agents or employees against claims or liability arising from or based upon the violation of any federal, state, county, city, or other applicable laws, bylaws, ordinances or regulation by the Vendor, its agents, associates, or employees.

The indemnification provided above shall obligate the Vendor to defend at its own expense or to provide for such defense at the Customer's option, of any and all claims of liability and all suits and actions of every name and description that may be brought against the Customer which may result from the operations and activities under the Contract whether the installation operation be performed by the Vendor, subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either.

The award of the Contract to the Vendor shall obligate the Vendor to comply with the foregoing indemnity provision; however, the collateral obligation of insuring the indemnity must be complied with as set forth.

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5.18 RIGHT TO REJECT

Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services will be disqualified.

The Applicant may, at its sole discretion, cancel this procurement or extend the bid due date for the submission of proposals. Any cancellations or extensions shall be done via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC).

The customer reserves the right to accept or reject all proposals or sections thereof when the rejection is in the best interest of the School Board of Bradford County. The Customer reserves the right to award without further discussion. Therefore, responses should be submitted initially with the most favorable terms that the Vendor proposes. The Customer reserves the right to reject the proposal of a Vendor who has previously failed to perform properly or completed on time contracts of a similar nature; and to reject the proposal of any Vendor who, in the opinion of the Customer, is not in a position to adequately perform the contract.

The Customer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals; any part or parts of a proposal, waive any technicalities/informalities, increase or reduce quantities, make modifications or specifications, and award any or all of the contract in a manner that is in the best interest of the School Board of Bradford County. Contracts will be awarded to the Vendor submitting the proposal determined to be in the best interest of the School Board of Bradford County. The Customer will have no legal liability for decisions made in the best interest of the School Board of Bradford County.

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SECTION VI
BID RESPONSE FORM

Vendor must use the following form to quote its price:

TO: The School Board of Bradford County, Erate@mybradford.us

VENDOR:

Name of Firm

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

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COST PROPOSAL

Wide Area Network Connectivity Services

Complete this form and submit with signatures along with your proposal to:
erate@mybradford.us

- A. Connectivity of 200Mbps, or greater, as defined in Section 2.1
- B. For Accounting Purposes, the monthly cost, per location and per device is to broken down below. The Vendor must note any additional charges, installation, equipment, etc., if the monthly cost does not include these additional charges.
- C. Items deemed by USAC as ineligible, and sold separately by the Vendor shall be priced separately.
- D. **NOTE: Costs are to be listed PRE E-RATE DISCOUNTS**

WAN Pricing Schedule: District Office

Pricing Component	Speed Option 1	Speed Option 2
Proposed Bandwidth	1 Gbps	2 Gbps
Monthly Recurring Service Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____
Annual Recurring Service Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____
Special Construction Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____
Installation / Equipment Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____
Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges	\$ _____	\$ _____
Yearly Total Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____

Contract / Pricing Term	12-month contract with four optional 12-month extensions
Installation Lead Time	
Additional Notes or Charges	

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WAN Pricing Schedule: Lawtey Elementary School

Pricing Component	Speed Option 1	Speed Option 2	Speed Option 3
Proposed Bandwidth	200 Mbps	600 Mbps	1 Gbps
Monthly Recurring Service Cost	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Annual Recurring Service Cost	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Special Construction Cost	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Installation / Equipment Cost	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____
Yearly Total Cost	\$_____	\$_____	\$_____

Contract / Pricing Term	12-month contract with four optional 12-month extensions
Installation Lead Time	
Additional Notes or Charges	

WAN Pricing Schedule: Bradford Elementary School

Pricing Component	Speed Option 1	Speed Option 2
Proposed Bandwidth	600 Mbps	1 Gbps
Monthly Recurring Service Cost	\$_____	\$_____
Annual Recurring Service Cost	\$_____	\$_____
Special Construction Cost	\$_____	\$_____
Installation / Equipment Cost	\$_____	\$_____
Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges	\$_____	\$_____
Yearly Total Cost	\$_____	\$_____

Contract / Pricing Term	12-month contract with four optional 12-month extensions
Installation Lead Time	
Additional Notes or Charges	

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Having carefully examined the Request for Proposal documents prepared by the School Board of Bradford County, and together with such addenda, if any, as listed hereafter, the undersigned hereby proposes and agrees to provide all components as specified in the attached Proposal Schedule, these sheets being a part of the proposal, for the total price shown and under the terms of the attached contract. **It is agreed that the undersigned has complied with all requirements concerning Vendor Qualifications, licensing, and with all other local, state and federal laws and that no legal requirement has been violated in making or accepting this proposal in awarding a contract to him or in the delivery of products.** In submitting this proposal, it is understood that the right is reserved by the Customer to reject any or all proposals and waive all technicalities/informalities in connection herewith. It is also agreed that pricing submitted in the Vendor's proposal shall remain valid and available for the duration of the applicable E-Rate funding year and throughout the E-Rate review, award, and implementation process associated with this procurement.

The undersigned declared that the person or persons signing the Proposal is/are fully authorized to sign on behalf of the firm listed and to fully bind the firm listed to all of the conditions and provisions thereof. In view of the terms of the Request for Proposal the undersigned proposes to furnish all items for a total sum of: \$_____

Submitted By:

Company Name

Company Address

Telephone Number

Authorized Official and Title

Signature of Official

Date

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**RFP ATTACHMENT
REQUIRED**

Certification of Vendor Qualification Compliance

Vendor Name

USAC Spin Number _____

By indication of the authorized signature below, the Vendor does hereby make certification and assurance of the Vendor's compliance with:

1. ____ *The laws of the State of Florida*
2. ____ *That the vendor's company has provided proof of registration with USAC and provided their SPIN NUMBER.*
3. ____ *That the Vendor's referenced accounts consist of schools for which the Vendor has prior experience providing Wide Area Network connectivity services as defined by the Universal Service Administrative Company.*
4. ____ *That the 3 examples provided by the vendor are school systems that the vendor has provided medium to large-scale wired/wireless interconnected sites that have equal broadband connectivity services of 200 Mbps or greater to each site*
5. ____ *That the responding vendor meets all qualifications outlined in 5.0 of the RFP **on their own merit**, not via other vendor's qualification.*
6. ____ *The Vendor has included a proposed contract for services requested (attachment).*

Vendor Signature
