Dodge City USD 443
2112 1st Ave
Dodge City, KS 67801

Project Overview

Dodge City USD 443 requests proposals for Category 1 Leased Dark/Lit Fiber to provide high-speed, dedicated point-to-point fiber optic connectivity connecting district sites and facilities. Connectivity will serve the following sites, originating from the **Administrative Building at 2112 First Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801.** Current WAN has 12 fibers in a hub and spoke to the building.

- **High School:** DC High School
- **Middle Schools:** DC Middle School, Comanche Middle School
- **Elementary Schools:** Beeson, Central, Linn, Miller, Northwest, Ross, Soule, and Sunnyside
- **Related Entities (NIFS)**: Rise Wilroads Campus**,** Dodge City PS District Offices, Dodge City Civic Center, Transportation Building, Building A, and Central Storage Building. Fiber from Building A goes to other NIF via fiber owned and maintained by the district.

In accordance with USAC E-Rate Category 1 rules and guidelines, proposals must adhere to the following scope and specifications:

- **Solution Type:** Leased Dark Fiber. The provider will be responsible for providing, maintaining, and repairing the physical fiber infrastructure (including pole attachments, conduit, right-of-way, and fiber strands). The District will provide and manage the modulating electronics/lit equipment on each end.
- **Maintenance and Operations (M&O):** Proposals must explicitly itemize ongoing Maintenance and Operations (M&O) fees associated with the leased dark fiber strands.
- **Network Design & Points of Connection:** Bids must detail line-item pricing for point-to-point connections linking specified District locations above.
- **Service Level Agreement (SLA):** The proposed lease must include a robust SLA guaranteeing high network availability (minimum 99.99% uptime target), 24/7/365 proactive monitoring, and a maximum Mean Time to Repair (MTTR) of 4 hours or less for physical fiber cuts or degradation.
- **Term Length:** The District seeks proposals for multi-year lease terms (e.g., 3-year, 5-year, or 10-year terms) with optional voluntary extension periods, allowing flexibility for E-Rate funding cycles.
- **Special Construction / Initial Installation:** Any one-time Special Construction or non-recurring installation charges must be clearly broken down, itemized, and compliant with USAC Category 1 rules, including options for installment payments if eligible.

Bidding Instructions & Terms

- **Submission Method:** All proposal responses must be submitted via email to the primary contact at **traci.taylor@swplains.org**.
- **Submission Deadline:** Responses must be received prior to the Allowable Contract Date specified on the Form 470. December 5, 2026 11:59 PM.

- **Itemized Pricing:** Proposals must include detailed, line-item pricing compatible with E-Rate Item 21 requirements, clearly separating E-Rate eligible costs from any non-eligible services or equipment. All offered equipment must be brand new; refurbished or remanufactured items will not be accepted.Bidders must hold active authorized reseller status from the manufacturer.
- **Taxes and Fees:** Bids must include estimated line items for applicable taxes, surcharges, and regulatory fees to reflect true total cost.
- **Installation & Start-Up:** All one-time installation, activation, or initial construction costs MUST be explicitly itemized.
- **Contract Options:** Multi-year contracts and voluntary contract extension options will be considered.
- **Lowest Comparable Price (LCP):** Service providers must comply with USAC rules regarding Lowest Comparable Price.
- **Evaluation & Selection:** In accordance with E-Rate rules, the cost of E-Rate eligible services will be the primary factor in bid evaluation. Other evaluation factors may include technical merit, vendor references, prior experience with vendors, and quality of proposal. Local or in-state vendors will receive preference.
- **Invoicing:** Service providers must be willing to cooperate with standard USAC invoicing processes (SPI or BEAR). The district prefers SPI method when possible.
- **Site Visits:** Optional site walk-throughs may be scheduled with district IT personnel by contacting **traci.taylor@swplains.org**. The district would prefer that all vendors schedule a walk-through.
- **Scope of Work:** The district reserves the right to modify requested bandwidth quantities or decline optional installation services prior to contract execution. The bidder may provide bids for any or all portions of this proposal. The applicant reserves the right to purchase all, none, or a portion of the quoted equipment/services and may choose more than one provider for one type of service.
- **Disqualification Criteria:**
    - Bids received after the Allowable Contract Date.
    - Generic marketing materials or blanket service listings that do not directly address the specifications outlined in this RFP / Form 470.
    - Automated spam or robotic bid submissions.
    - Proposals failing to separate eligible and ineligible costs.
    - The bidder must be in good standing with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and not have a Red Light status. If there is a Red Light status, the contract will become null and void without penalty to the applicant.
- **Board Approval & Funding:** Final purchase commitments are contingent upon district School Board approval and receipt of an E-Rate Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL). All bids must be submitted with the understanding that implementation may be dependent upon the following: (i) Final approval of next year's fiscal budget; (ii) Contract confirmation by next year's board of education; (iii) Award of associated E-Rate funding; (iv) terms and provisions of the Kansas Cash Basis Law K.S.A 10-1101.