

COUNTY COMMISSION REQUEST FOR ACTION # 2024-54

Title: Broadband Community Assessment

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 04/02/2024

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY: Administration

CONTACT PERSON: Melissa McCoy

DEADLINE IF ANY FOR ACTION: Select Date

DATE SENT COUNTY COUNSELOR: Select Date

1. Request for Action

On January 31, 2024, Saline County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a broadband community assessment study aimed at ensuring equitable and reliable access to broadband internet service for all residents. In response to the RFP, we received a proposal from Design Nine Broadband Planners at a cost of \$48,000 and one from Essentia at a cost of \$169,580.

A review committee consisting of Renee Duxler, President and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Claire Ludes, Executive Director of the Salina Area United Way, and Amy Adams, Assistant Director of the Salina Public Library, met on March 13, 2024.

Based on the proposals, the review committee recommends Design Nine Broadband Planners for this project.

2. Alternatives for Action

1. Approve Design Nine Broadband Planners' proposal.
2. Do not approve the proposal and provide staff with further direction.

3. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposal by Design Nine Broadband Planners based on the project's scope of work and budget.

4. Budget Impact

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$51,599 were reserved for this project. The total cost of the proposal is estimated to be \$48,000.

5. Action Taken by County Commission