
Last Mile Grant Application

Butte Falls School
District #91

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1. Project Description:

Jackson County School District #91, better known as Butte Falls School District (BFSD), is a small rural district in southern Oregon. It is located in the town of Butte Falls, about 30 miles northeast of Medford. Butte Falls has a population of approximately 400 and there are about 1200 residents within the District's boundaries. This community was based on the logging operations of The Medford Corporation for many years, but now over 40% of the working population commutes more than 30 miles a day, to and from work. District K-12 enrollment has varied from 170 to 240 students in the past few years. We currently have 13 fulltime teachers, 15 support staff, and one administrator. Prior to two years ago, BFSD had 1.544MBps of bandwidth. Internet connectivity was used for limited research and administrative tasks. Since we doubled the bandwidth, teachers have been more willing to implement group projects using the Internet because students are now able to all use the same website at once. Prior to the increase, it was not even feasible for a class of 20 students to do Internet research at the same time. Teachers have now expanded their use of Internet based projects to the extent that we are currently bumping into the maximum capacity of our increased bandwidth on a regular basis. There are projects that teachers have created, but which still cannot be completed with a class of 20 students because of bandwidth limitations.

The current two T1 lines provide a total of 3.2MBps connectivity to Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD). SOESD provides our connectivity to the Internet. This is far less than the minimum connectivity standards and the desired connectivity availability of 10 Mbps. Limiting the functionality of the bandwidth in our situation is that the T1 lines function independently so that any transmission can only access one of the lines, a total bandwidth of 1.544MBps for each transmission. On school days, we are regularly maxing out our current bandwidth. When we are participating in state online testing, most other uses of the Internet must be avoided because we are hitting the bandwidth limit with the testing alone. The cost of this service is around \$1750.00 per month. We receive E-Rate reimbursement for 80% of this cost. In the current economic environment, the board and the Superintendent are not willing to entertain a large increase in monthly expenditures for our connectivity. So the challenge to increase the bandwidth without increasing the cost began with the submission of an E-Rate form 470 requesting a 10MBps connection. The first responses to this request were enthusiastic and seemed promising. This was unusual because this very rural district has never received responses to 470 requests for bids for telecommunications bandwidth. Israel Mathewson and Mike Prinslow at SOESD guided the district to be more specific when speaking to potential service providers. They also spent time answering questions from contractors and district personnel to assure that the project was correctly designed and could be completed successfully. Unfortunately, as time

went on, the district received email after email indicating that service providers were not able to offer bids for the project.

2. Criteria outlined in Section E:

All of the equipment purchased by CenturyLink is essential to implementing OSI layer 1 or 2 service. This service will provide us Internet connectivity through Southern Oregon ESD. This service will allow us to leverage our current infrastructure, which includes leased fiber connections from the high school to the other district sites to provide 10MBps connectivity to all district sites.

3. Description of Sites Covered:

The district sites include a high school consisting of grades 8 through 12, an elementary school grades K through 7, and the District Office. The high school currently has an enrollment of 87 students. Teaching staff includes six teachers and four support staff. The elementary currently has an enrollment of 89 students. Teaching staff includes 7 teachers, and five support staff. The district office houses two support staff employees. The two building are approximately one quarter mile from each other. The district office is located approximately the same distance from the schools. The entire district is under the direction of one full time superintendent.

4. Key ESD/school staff involvement:

The district technology coordinator contacted Mike Prinslow and Israel Mathewson at SOESD for project design and specifications. Both technology coordinator and SOESD staff have been working collaboratively to assure that the feasibility and functionality of the project meets the needs of the district and is sustainable.

5. Description and role of contractors involved.

CenturyLink provided a bid for the 10MBps ethernet connectivity. Hunter Communications is the lessor for the inter-district fiber lines. When contacted, they confirmed that the current configuration had the capacity to provide the 10MBps connectivity to each of the district sites.

6. Leverage of Resources/Commitment to Ongoing Funding:

The grant will cover the non recurring build out cost of \$9,775.00. The termination liability charge of \$783.00 and the maintenance of the inter-district fiber of \$1,200.00 per year. The district will cover the \$2075.00 per month charge for the Ethernet service, for a total of \$49,800.00 for two years. An E-Rate

reimbursement of \$39,840.00 will be applied for.

CenturyLink will provide a 10MBps Ethernet service between Butte Falls School District and SOESD:

A one time \$9,775 Non-Recurring Charge (NRC) necessary for fiber buildout, splicing, construction, ethernet installation and misc charges to provide the monthly service.

3 Yr. Term - \$2,075 Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC)

Non recurring Termination Liability Charge to current service provider of \$783.00

The minimal cost increase of \$325 per month for the expanded service will make the on going commitment to funding a sensible choice for sustainability in the district's annual budget. We will continue to apply for E-Rate reimbursements for all eligible telecommunications services.

With increased capacity, we will also be able to take advantage of SOESD partner services such as remote network and desktop support and maintenance.

Grant Request Conclusion

Butte Falls School District requests \$12,958 from the Last Mile Grant to provide the scaffolding necessary to increase district-wide bandwidth from 3.2 MBps to 10MBps in a manner that will be sustainable using district general funds and E-Rate.

Item	Cost	Funding Source	Total
Fiber buildout, splicing, construction, ethernet installation and misc charges - nonrecurring	\$9,775.00	Last Mile Grant	\$9,775.00
Termination Liability Charge- nonrecurring	\$783.00	Last Mile Grant	\$783.00
Monthly Recurring Charges	\$2,075.00 per month	District General fund/ E-Rate	\$49,800
Maintenance of inter-district fiber	\$1,200.00 per year	Last Mile Grant District/E-Rate will cover this cost in future years	\$2,400
		Project total for 2 years	\$62,758
		Last Mile Grant request	\$12,958