



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Kevin Fong, Director, Department of Information Technology

Subject: Contract No. 31900187 Amendment: LV.NET (formerly Towerstream) for Secondary Internet for Redundancy and Load Balancing

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the contract with LV.NET (formerly Towerstream, Inc.) for redundant secondary internet services, increasing the contract amount by \$106,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$278,000 from October 3, 2017 to June 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for the additional services in the amount of \$106,000 will be available in the Information Technology Communications Services Fund (502) as itemized below. Planned spending in future fiscal years (FY) are subject to Council approval of the proposed city-wide budget and Annual Appropriation Ordinances.

FY 2018-24	Description
\$106,000.00	Subscription service through June 2024. Budget Code: 502 Fund (Comm Svcs)
\$172,000.00	Subscription expenditures to date under previous Council spending authorization
\$278,000.00	Total FY2018-2024 Not To Exceed Value

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City's reliance on a stable, *redundant* internet connection is critical for the daily functioning of its core operations.

LV.NET provides a secondary (backup and redundant) means to connect to the internet, thereby minimizing any potentials for an outage, should either the City's AT&T internet connection be interrupted, or vice-versa. Additionally, LV.NET is used to increase data speed and capacity for the City, by utilizing its connectivity in parallel with the City's AT&T connection.

The LV.NET secondary internet connection for the City is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities. This increase in spending authority will cover the next two (2) years of service (through FY 2024).

BACKGROUND

In FY 2017, the AT&T internet connection served as the primary internet connection for all City staff with no redundancy in place. In FY 2018, the City upgraded the AT&T internet bandwidth from 250 MB to 500 MB and deployed a Towerstream (now LV.NET) internet connection (500 MB) at the Corporation Yard to serve as a backup internet connection in the event that the primary internet connection, located at City Hall, ever went down.

In addition, the City also implemented load balancing technology for incoming internet traffic, so that both internet connections are sharing the load of incoming traffic to the City network.

In FY 2022, LV.NET acquired Towerstream's customers and network infrastructure in Las Vegas, Reno, San Francisco, and Seattle and informed the City of this sale. Contractual obligations remain unchanged.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Providing a fast and reliable internet connection for City staff allows City staff to perform more tasks from their offices, and allows Berkeley residents to use more online tools and services, reducing the need to physically come to City offices to conduct business, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions required for travel to and from their homes.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This increase in spending authority will cover the next two (2) years of service by LV.NET.

The City selected LV.NET (formerly Towerstream) over other internet service providers because of their wireless technology. The City's current internet connection runs through AT&T's fiber network, and utilizing a wireless solution as a redundant backup solution makes more sense than acquiring a second fiber-based solution, where both fiber internet connections could be subject to the same kind of damage.

In addition, the City installed the LV.NET (formerly Towerstream) internet connection in a different physical location (the Corporation Yard) than the primary internet connection (City Hall), to provide additional physical redundancy and resilience in the event of a local disaster.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City considered other fiber-based internet service providers, but given the location of Berkeley and its vicinity to multiple earthquake fault lines, in particular the Hayward fault, Department of Information Technology staff decided to implement a wireless internet solution to minimize a single-point of failure scenario.

CONTACT PERSON

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Contract No. 31900187 Amendment: LV.NET (formerly Towerstream, Inc.) for
Secondary Internet for Redundancy and Load Balancing

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 31900187 AMENDMENT: LV.NET FOR SECONDARY INTERNET
FOR REDUNDANCY AND LOAD BALANCING

WHEREAS, the internet is a vital service for the City functions, enabling e-commerce, online research, customer interaction, data flow, sharing of files;

WHEREAS, the reliability of a fast and dependable internet connection has become increasingly important to conduct day to day business and provide essential services to the community; and

WHEREAS, the projected cost for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 is \$53,000 per year, \$106,000 in total, which will be available in the Department of Information Technology's Communications Services fund (fund 502), planned spending in future fiscal years (FY) are subject to Council approval of the proposed city-wide budget and Annual Appropriation Ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to amend Contract No. 31900187 (FUNDS) with LV.NET for redundant secondary internet services, increasing the contract amount by \$106,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$278,000 from October 3, 2017 to June 30, 2024.