



CITY OF BLAIR

Server Hardware Memorandum
City of Blair, Nebraska
October 20, 2026
Thomas White, IT Director

Purpose

This memorandum supports the attached resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of replacement server systems for City of Blair operations. The total cost for Phase 1 will not exceed \$70,000, including \$50,000 for servers at City Hall and \$20,000 for servers at the Blair Public Library and Technology Center. All installation of server hardware will be performed internally by the City of Blair IT Department at no additional labor cost to the City. These items were included and approved in the FY26-27 budget.

Justification

The City's current servers are nearing or past the end of their supported life. Aging hardware increases the risk of unplanned outages, data loss, and security exposure as manufacturer support and firmware updates end. Replacing these systems on a planned schedule avoids emergency purchases and unplanned downtime for City departments.

This purchase supports the City's infrastructure modernization plan. New servers at City Hall will host the City's core services, including user accounts, file storage, and department applications, on a consolidated platform that is easier to manage, secure, and back up. Consolidating to a single City-wide domain will reduce duplicate account management and clean up legacy configurations left by prior IT arrangements.

The servers at the Blair Public Library and Technology Center will provide backup storage and disaster recovery capacity at a second City location, improving continuity of City operations.

To control costs, the IT Department is evaluating certified refurbished enterprise servers, which can deliver comparable performance and reliability to new servers at a significantly lower price.

Current tariff adjustments and memory component surcharges are driving up costs for servers. Procuring now locks in current pricing and avoids exposure to further cost increases.

Recommendation

The IT Department recommends the City Council approve the resolution authorizing this Phase 1 purchase, not to exceed \$70,000, to be installed and maintained by City of Blair IT staff.

Thomas White
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