

2.12 APPROVAL OF E-RATE TIER 2 APPLICATION FOR NETWORK FIREWALL AND THREAT PROTECTION

A. SUBJECT

The Board is asked to approve the district application for E-Rate reimbursement for upgrades to the district’s network firewall and the additional purchase of a 5 year subscription for Cisco Threat Defense, Malware and URL protection.

B. INFORMATION

The district operates two internet firewalls and they have reached their end of life for support and maintenance. As a result, we will need to replace the devices. These devices and their basic maintenance and support are eligible for E-Rate Tier 2 Funding.

In January we initiated a request with USAC (Universal Services Administration Company) to update our current internet firewall device and receive 5 years of licenses, maintenance and support. The requests for services remained open for the required 28 days. During this time we received quotes from four different vendors. Once all of the quotes were received, a rubric was developed to determine the best provider.

After analysis, the district determined that CDW should be awarded the contracts through the E-Rate process because they were the only company to provide us a quote for the components we specified in our request. Additionally they were the less expensive of the alternatives and we have worked with them in the past on other networking projects.

As in the past, E-Rate will only reimburse the expenses for a basic firewall. It will not reimburse expenses for components such as threat defense, malware protection and anti-virus protection. A firewall without these features will not fully serve the security needs of the district. We operate our existing firewall with these features and they need to continue in order to protect the district’s network from cyber threats.

Firewall Equipment and Maintenance and Support
Purchase of Equipment and a 5-year Maintenance Agreement

eRate Components	Cost
Cisco Firepower - Firewall Appliance	\$19,776.60
Cisco Firewall Maintenance	\$17,160.32
Cisco Firepower Management Center	\$181.50
TOTAL E-Rate Component Cost	\$37,118.42
E-Rate Reimbursement - 60%	\$22,271.05
District Portion - 40%	\$14,847.37
Non E-Rate Components	Cost
Cisco Threat Defense, Malware Subscription (5 Years)	\$42,247.24
TOTAL DISTRICT EXPENSE	\$57,094.61

C. RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends approval of purchasing through CDW the Firewall appliances with a 5 year basic maintenance and support agreement and filing for appropriate E-Rate reimbursement. Additionally, it is recommended to purchase a 5 year Cisco Threat Defense and Malware subscription from CDW.

D. SUGGESTED MOTION

This item will be included as a part of the Consent Agenda Motion.