

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 8**

**SUBJECT: AMEND PO#566069 AT&T WIFI SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On October 25, 2021, the San Diego County Library (SDCL or County Library) was awarded \$4.3 million from the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program to provide equipment and wireless internet service to patrons who have limited access to the internet and internet-enabled devices. Under Board Authority 09-14-21 (4), \$1.4 million of the \$4.3 million was designated and used to purchase 7,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspot devices with corresponding data services. The remaining amount was used to purchase 7,000 Google Chromebooks. The County Library bundled the 7,000 Google Chromebooks and 7,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspots into what the Library called, “Tech Connect” kits for distribution. Devices were made available to members of the public with a library card to check out free of charge for up to one year. In May of 2023, SDCL added an additional 2,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspot devices with data services under BOS 05-23-23 (28), bringing the total amount of devices to 9,000. The ECF program is one of many ways the County works toward closing the digital divide.

Distribution of the Tech Connect kits began on June 15, 2022, throughout the 33 County branch library locations. To ensure that the Tech Connect kits are distributed equitably amongst communities with no access or limited access to internet-enabled devices and broadband services, SDCL and its respective branches have collaborated with more than 100 community-based organizations, tribal reservations, and county-wide partners such as Aging & Independence Services, Department of Child Support Services, and Library High School, where adults can earn their high school diploma online. County residents can also check-out Tech Connect kits at their local County branch library. The County Library closely monitors the check-out data of the Tech Connect kits and adjusts distribution accordingly. As of March 31, 2024, 92% of Tech Connect kits have been checked out month over month, and 40% of those were in rural, unincorporated, and economically challenged communities. The Wi-Fi hotspot services are currently provided by AT&T through a National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) cooperative purchasing contract between AT&T and the State of Utah. NASPO facilitates public procurement solicitations and agreements using a lead-state model. AT&T and Utah have recently extended the contract for an additional five years, ending on August 11, 2029.

Today’s request is (1) to amend the contract to extend its term for one year, beginning August 12, 2024, and four one-year option years through August 11, 2029, and (2) allow an estimated increase of \$50,000 per year for a new estimated total contract price of \$5,850,000.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve an increase in the AT&T contract award funding and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend the contract with AT&T for Wi-Fi hotspot data services by an estimated increase of \$50,000 dollars in cost per option year for the remainder of the contract terms ending on August 11, 2029.

2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend the contract during the extended term as needed to exercise each additional option and to increase the total contracted price if additional funds become available.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County Library provides equitable access to educational classes, opportunities to develop literacy, study materials, and recreational reading at no cost to the communities and customers we serve. The County Library also provides access to broadband internet and computers so that customers can access the digital services they need to meet their goals of learning, connecting, job seeking, and acquiring safety-net services. This amendment to the contract will enable the County Library to extend free digital infrastructure from library branches into the households of residents in need of this digital access. This program is an opportunity to provide resources for households impacted by the digital divide in the County Library service area.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's request to amend the contract with AT&T for Wi-Fi data services supports San Diego County's Sustainability Strategic Initiative by providing fair and equal access to broadband services for all residents. It also contributes to building resilient communities by bolstering internet services available to the public, particularly those impacted by the digital divide in the County Library service area.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the San Diego County Library (SDCL). If approved, this request will result in an increase of the total contract price by an estimated \$50,000 per year for data services for up to five years ending on August 11, 2029. The funding source is the Library Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. Any future costs for this contract will be included in future Operational Plans.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Vargas

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter