



Apache Junction Information Technology (IT) Department

DATE: May 21, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

THROUGH: Bryant Powell, City Manager

FROM: Doug Wirthgen, IT Director

SUBJECT: Mears Group, Inc. Broadband Infrastructure

Last year, city IT and WUCFD staff along with the city attorney negotiated a master agreement with Mears Group, Incorporated, (Mears Broadband), which is a national engineering, design and construction contractor for, among other things, fiber broadband infrastructure / network systems. Using the master agreement, the city and Mears Broadband do not have to negotiate individual contract terms for broadband projects since Exhibit A to the master agreement includes per project work orders.

The first project under this master agreement is fiber connections (between the PWD yard and existing city hall campus, WUCFD plant, fire district facilities, skateboard-pool park, and 12 traffic signals), which are essential for efficient functionality and compatibility with 21st century telecommunication technologies. Additional infrastructure upgrade benefits as a result of this project will include compatibility with City of Mesa telecommunication systems for public safety, extra capacity conduit for future growth and the possibility of leasing out unused fiber with private and governmental entities.

The cost of this comprehensive project is \$1,151, 095, which will be paid for using available American Rescue Plan Act (2021) ("ARPA") funding.

Staff recommends approval of: 1) the master agreement with the built-in work order procurement; and 2) the proposed Broadband Ironwood Drive and system connection to public facilities project.