

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

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TO: Dr. Shawn Greiner
Board of School Trustees

FROM: Michelle Cronk, CFO

DATE: February 4, 2025

RE: E-Rate Category 2 Technology Project Purchase

The Technology Department indicated during budget planning for 2025 that continued upgrades to our network infrastructure are needed as equipment is nearing its end of life. We started the upgrade project last year and this is a continuation of the project now that we have more E-Rate Category 2 funding available. This purchase was included on the Capital Projects Plan during the budget process.

Mr. Hamilton has been working with our technology e-rate consultant at Ad-Tec through the proper channels for obtaining federal E-Rate Category 2 funding to help supplement the cost of these infrastructure upgrades. Our district is eligible for a 50% discount on approved projects through the funding mechanism. Mr. Hamilton has gone through the necessary processes required for a Category 2 project including the publication of notices of Request for Proposals for the project, a question and answer period, and a final assessment of proposals. Wintek submitted the winning proposal for network infrastructure replacement at a total cost of \$180,660.19. Our E-Rate Category 2 funding allows for a 50% discount on this project so the final cost for the district will be approximately \$90,330.10. Other proposals were less expensive but the equipment included is not compatible with existing corporation equipment and thus extra expense would be involved for other equipment replacements. The cost of this infrastructure upgrade will be paid from Educational and Operations Funds.

Please place this item on the agenda for the February 10, 2025 board meeting. The Wintek proposal as well as a breakdown of the cost is included in your board packets.