



DEPARTMENT OF
**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

CITY OF APPLETON
Department of Information Technology

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To: HR/IT Committee, Common Council
From: Corey Popp, Information Technology Director
Date: May 14, 2025
Re: Recommendation to Approve Backup Internet Circuit

I am recommending approval of a 36-month agreement with TDS Metrocom to provide a backup Internet circuit at a rate of \$805 per month (\$9,660 annually). The Common Council approved \$14,000 for this connection in the 2025 Executive Budget.

The total contract cost over the 36-month term is \$28,980. I am also requesting a 10% contingency (\$2,898) to cover any third-party installation costs that may arise. TDS has waived their installation fee, but minor costs may be incurred depending on the final construction plan. The total three-year budget request, including contingency, is \$31,878.

Three quotes were solicited for this project:

PROVIDER	MONTHLY RATE	TERM	TOTAL COST
TDS METROCOM	\$805	36 months	\$28,980
AT&T	\$1,035	36 months	\$37,260
SPECTRUM	\$1,055	36 months	\$37,980

In addition to serving as a backup to the City's primary WiscNet Internet connection (WiscNet is a nonprofit Internet provider serving educational and governmental organizations in Wisconsin), the TDS connection will also enable firewall load balancing and increase available bandwidth across departments.

This is made possible through existing SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network) technology deployed on the City's firewall. SD-WAN dynamically routes network traffic across multiple Internet paths to ensure optimal speed, reliability, and automatic failover in the event of an outage.

The installation period is expected to take up to 90 days following contract signing.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this recommendation.