



MEMORANDUM

TO: Fox Cities Transit Commission & City of Appleton Common Council

FROM: Ron McDonald, General Manager

DATE: February 17, 2026

RE: Award Recommendation for Router Upgrade Purchase

BACKGROUND

Each Valley Transit bus is equipped with a router that connects onboard systems to the internet/cloud servers using cellular data. A router is vital to onboard systems that share information to passengers, oversee service, monitor vehicle location, enable fare collection and observe safety. The current router used by Valley Transit buses are approaching 4 years old, and the model is no longer sold by the manufacturer. Additionally, the current router does not provide enough ethernet ports to match the onboard products that require cellular data.

The selected replacement router (Ericsson R1900) has sufficient capacity to handle current and future needs. It is built with current technology, designed for vehicle deployments and recommended by various technical experts.

ANALYSIS

Valley Transit requested quotes from vendors to supply the replacement router and required cellular/gps antenna fleet-wide. The lowest quote at \$78,322 was provided by Baycom (Green Bay, WI).

FISCAL IMPACT

Valley Transit requests an additional 5% to cover unknown and installation costs related to the project. This brings the total project cost to \$82,238. Valley Transit budgeted sufficient funds for a router replacement project in the 2026 budget. Existing federal grants would cover 80% of total project cost. The remaining cost would be expensed from Valley Transit's annual budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend authorization for Valley Transit to purchase routers and antennas from Baycom.