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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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Denis Goulet
Commissioner

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 And the Honorable Council
 State House
 Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to accept and expend \$201,828 of American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to implement a high quality weatherproof portable wireless internet (WiFi) connectivity upon approval by the Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council, through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.
Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 124:15, and contingent upon approval of requested action #1, authorize the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to establish Class 046 Consultants for the purpose of hiring independent professional services for initial installation, testing and support effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. **Funding Source: 100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2022 in the new accounting unit as follows.

01-03-003-030010-26xxxxx¹ Department of Information Technology, ARP Portable Wireless Internet.

| Class | Description | FY22 Requested Budget |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 037-500171 | TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE | \$155,604 |
| 040-500800 | INDIRECT COSTS | \$2,500 |
| 041-500801 | AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE | \$199 |
| 046-500465 | CONSULTANTS | \$43,525 |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$201,828 |
| Source of Funds | | |
| 000-16-400338 | FEDERAL FUNDS | \$201,828 |
| | TOTAL REVENUE | \$201,828 |

EXPLANATION

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0304A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH0304Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

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The State of New Hampshire regularly conducts citizen service events that support Public Health and other important activities. With the advent of COVID-19 the percentage of these events that require quality WiFi connectivity to support the citizen service mission has increased significantly. The lack of this capability can slow us down when we are needed to respond quickly.

COVID-19 has driven a large increase in attendance at many of the state's signature outdoor activities. In addition, there is often a need to process credit card transactions for entry fees and/or sales of merchandise. As a further complication, these events are often held in areas where there is little or no mobile data coverage. For some of these events having high quality data connectivity is necessary for the event to be successful. Permanent buildout of broadband capacity would be unrealistic, given the short-term nature of contemplated events. Readily accessible Wi-Fi that is deployable with very little lead time or planning horizon is necessary to support these uses.

The prime example in this category is the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's Annual Craft Fair that is held each summer at the base of Mt. Sunapee. We have designed the pop up network around this use case because it is the most challenging one we have encountered. With registration and all of the vendor tents the event requires almost 4 acres of WiFi coverage, supporting 250 simultaneous users and processing \$2.75 million in sales from booth artists, \$100k in League merchandise sales and a good percentage of the over \$300k in ticket sales. This singular event is a huge contributor to the creative economy of New Hampshire bringing over 20,000 visitors annually from as far away as CA.

The Department of Information Technology respectfully requests ARPA funding in the amount of \$201,828. This amount will cover purchase of the equipment and professional services for initial installation, testing and support during the 2022 Annual Craftsmen's Fair.

Program Requirements and Assumptions:

- System must be portable, weather proof and easy to install
- Supports a variety of internet uplink technologies (direct connect, mobile data 4GLTE and 5G, Satellite)
- Supports "quality of service" technology so the most important traffic can be prioritized on the network
- Option to implement to Pop Up Networks at two locations simultaneously
- Includes hardened cases for travel and storage to protect the investment

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 037 - Technology, Hardware: Ruggedized portable network kit that includes wi-fi routers, cloud management connectivity, software licenses, dual-band antennas, battery packs and support services for large coverage connectivity in remote locations

Class 040 - Indirect Expenses: Budgeted at a rate of 10% of direct costs up to the first \$25K of any contract outsourcing functions or sub awards

Class 041 - Audit Fund Set Aside: to comply with RSA 124: 16 that requires all agencies that receive federal funds to set aside a percentage (0.1 %) of the federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

Class 046 – Consultants: initial installation, testing and support during the 2022 Annual Craftsmen's Fair.

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The following information is provided in accordance with the Comptroller's instructions memorandum dated September 21, 1981

1. **Personnel involved:** Temporary consultants.
2. **Nature, Need and Duration:** for the purpose of hiring independent professional services for the initial installation, testing and support of the portable wireless internet.
3. **Relationship to existing agency programs:** Builds upon DoIT's previous efforts in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency across all state agencies and partnerships relative to the COVID-19 response efforts.
4. **Has a similar program been requested of the legislature and denied?** No.
5. **Why wasn't funding included in the agency's budget request?** It was not known at the time that DoIT would be applying for American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF).
6. **Can portions of the grant funds be utilized?** This request is 100% federally funded.
7. **Estimate the funds required to continue these positions:** \$0.00. The temporary consulting positions will not be continued beyond the time frame of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)

In the event that Federal Funds are no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Denis Goulet
Commissioner