

## Executive Project Summary

### La Motte Telephone Company

The La Motte Telephone Company, Inc. ("La Motte") has been in the communications business since 1953. We provide service to the exchanges of La Motte and Andrew in Northeast Iowa just South of Dubuque in Bellevue and Jackson Counties. La Motte proposes to provide high speed broadband using wireline fiber optic technology to the residents on 216<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bellevue Cascade Road in Jackson County, Iowa. The speeds we are proposing in this area exceeds the 100/20 requirement, La Motte is currently able to serve their customers with symmetrical broadband speeds up to 1 Gbps. The area we are proposing to provide fiber optic technology to is predominately an agricultural area on the eastern side of Jackson County Iowa. This area is along the Mississippi River and the terrain is high bluffs, low valleys and thick foliage on the bluffs. The residents along this area currently do not have access to line of sight wireless internet and Windstream on copper lines is unable to provide the bandwidth requirements they need, especially during COVID-19, when they need to work from home, communicate by telehealth with their physician, and distance learning for their children. The fiber to the home we are proposing to bring to this area, not only will benefit people who need to work from their homes, students with their distance learning, ability to telehealth with their doctor, but will also allow local farmers to research grain and livestock market conditions, monitor weather conditions, maintain ready contact with their vendors, bankers and buyers, and participate in the various government and commodity programs that can only be applied for online during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

La Motte's proposed funded service area consists of 14 Census Blocks: going down the Bellevue Cascade Road, East of 250<sup>th</sup> Ave and 216<sup>th</sup> Street East of 250<sup>th</sup> Ave, West of Bellevue, in Jackson County Iowa. These census blocks are outside of the La Motte and Andrew Exchanges and are not eligible for funding through our current USDA RUS loan.

La Motte's proposed project will provide service to 41 households, and 1 business. La Motte was contacted by the residents of this area to provide fiber to the home service.

La Motte is in the planning stage of this build out. We talked with MP Nexlevel Contractors, a contractor who did the fiber to the home project in our Andrew Exchange and they are ready to start this project as soon as we are ready. MP Nexlevel has demonstrated, by prior work with La Motte Telephone, they are experienced contractors and are knowledgeable in fiber to the home construction. We have contacted our vendors regarding availability of fiber cable, drops to the customer premise, the outside NIDS to be placed on the customer home and the electronic cards necessary to power the fiber. We have discussed the project plan for plowing with our Jackson County Engineer's Office. La Motte technicians are experienced in fiber to the home projects as we have completed a fiber to the home project in the Andrew Telephone Exchange and we are currently completing the La Motte Telephone Exchange. None of the work applied for in this application has commenced construction or been applied for with any other government agency.

La Motte feels the milestones required are reasonable and is highly confident that the milestones will be met. The FCC has mandated performance testing for 2021 and La Motte has made provisions to comply with this mandate and will be able to provide performance data as required. La Motte is an experienced communications provider and is aware of all state and local requirements for construction and permitting.

La Motte has reviewed the terms, conditions and requirements as outline in the NOFA-003. We understand these terms, conditions and requirements. La Motte is able to comply with each of these as defined.

CARES Funding is necessary for this Project to proceed because La Motte is completing a fiber to the home project with an RUS loan. For La Motte to be able to provide the fiber to the home in this area we need funding to help offset the cost of the build. With an RUS loan La Motte Telephone must maintain a certain financial Tier and ratio analyses to maintain loan compliance. Without the CARES Funding we will not be able to fund this project.