

Executive Summary

1 Project Overview

The Stratford Mutual Telephone Company Central Iowa Broadband Expansion project will provide broadband services to households, businesses, and key community organizations within the target service area. This broadband connectivity will create the potential for increased business growth, public services, public safety, telehealth, telework, and distance learning. These capabilities are urgently needed by residents of the Otho community due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

For this project, Stratford Mutual Telephone Company is proposing to construct a FTTP outside plant and electronics infrastructure. This architecture will allow for the highest quality and the broadest range of telecommunications services that are available today, as well as, the maximum broadband capabilities to their subscribers.

Stratford Mutual Telephone Company has a proven reputation of deploying applications that can reduce operating costs, increase services, improve customer satisfaction, and increase revenue generation. It is led by experienced key staff that can manage their established organization to successfully implement and operate the proposed broadband infrastructure.

The overall total cost of the project is \$2,028,100 with \$1,521,075 requested in grant funding.

2 Geographic Area

The proposed broadband project will include the construction of FTTP infrastructure in the following four (4) counties: Story, Boone, Hamilton, Webster.

As shown in Exhibit B, the target service area includes 119 census blocks which covers 24.02 square miles and passes 197 broadband units.

3 Deployment Model

Stratford Mutual Telephone Company intends to build a FTTP architecture using Gigabit passive optical network (GPON) technologies to serve the subscribers within the target service area. The proposed FTTP electronics enables the provision of peak data speeds up to a 1 Gbps data service. The management system utilized for the proposed network provides Stratford Mutual Telephone Company with visibility into the total bandwidth utilization on each PON and Stratford Mutual Telephone Company will have the ability to easily update the network to ensure that the end users do not experience congestion.

4 Timeline

Stratford Mutual Telephone Company has completed Preliminary design of the project. However, no construction has been initiated on the project, therefore it is “shovel ready” upon award of funds. Stratford Mutual Telephone Company has explored building out this area; however, the high cost to deploy broadband due to its rurality has been a deterrent. With the proposed grant funding, Stratford Mutual Telephone Company believes it feasible to complete this expansion. The following is an overview of the preliminary timeline milestones.

Project Objectives and Activities	2021			
	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
OSP Engineering	X	X	X	X
Fiber Construction (Mainline & Drops)		X	X	X
FTTP Electronics (CO & ONT)			X	X