

Demonstrated Experience Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc.

Van Buren Telephone Company, Inc. (VBT) was created on July 30, 1923 to provide telephone service to customers in Birmingham, Bonaparte, Bentonsport, Douds, Keosauqua and Stockport. The Mt. Sterling exchange was purchased for \$500 in 1943, and the Cantril exchange was purchased for \$5,000 in 1952. Since our inception, VBT has evolved from providing party-line phone service, to being a full-service provider of the most advanced phone, long distance, high speed Internet and wireless phone services available.

In 2014 VBT began our Fiber-To-The Home (FTTH) project, which will conclude with the ultimate retirement of our aging copper network plant. The project began in the Keosauqua exchange and took three years to complete. The next exchange was Bonaparte in 2017, Cantril in 2018, Stockport in 2019, and Mt. Sterling was completed in 2020. Five of our six exchanges are 100% FTTH. As a part of a state-wide fiber network, VBT customers have access to cutting-edge technologies and top-quality services. To date, we have deployed 500 miles of buried fiber - depicted in the map below.

We have employed the same trusted and experienced engineering firm and fiber contractor for all of our FTTH projects. They are very familiar with our technical requirements and the communities we serve. As well the staff of Van Buren Telephone is well-tenured. Our four technicians have a combined total of 65 years of service with VBT, while our three customer service representatives have a combined total of 31 years of experience. Our General Manager has worked in Telecommunications for 40 years – so our staff live and work in the communities we serve. Van Buren Telephone Company truly is ***where technology meets tradition.***

