

Royal Telephone Company

The Royal Telephone Company began deploying fiber optic cable to the homes and businesses within their exchange boundary in 2005. The project was complete in 2006, which provided the community, churches, businesses, and school with state-of-the-art internet broadband access. We continue to upgrade the electronics as technology is always changing. Currently Royal Telephone Co. is deploying Carrier Grade Calix GigaSpire Optical Network Termination Equipment throughout the network.

We are partners with Northern Iowa Communication Partners and Northwest Communications Networks. NCN provides a fiber transport ring in Northwest Iowa connecting multiple communities with geographic diversity for reliability. NICP provides the latest technology in switching using a Ribbon C15 Switch. Cisco routers manage the traffic at each drop off point giving access to Internet Protocol Television, Broadband / Internet, and the latest features in Telephone access.

Oak Hill Engineering and Consulting along with Vantage Point, Innovative Systems, BKD, Calix, Cisco, ICA, NTCA, NECA, and Ciena are the most recent companies we work with to keep the network running flawless and in compliance with the FCC and most important our subscribers.

The additional census blocks to the east of our exchange would fit very well into our current operation and would allow us to provide the same level of service our subscribers have come to expect.

The Royal Telephone Company was incorporated February 9, 1911. The company started by purchasing telephone companies and farm lines in the area. Some of those purchased were Northern Rural Telephone Company centering in Royal; Willow Creek Telephone Company; Midland Telephone Company of Spencer; Lone Tree Company Mincer Line; and Watson Main Line.

In 1913, the company built a block building 25 x 40 to house the switchboard and for storage space. A portion of the present site was purchased in 1959 and a new building was built to house the new dial office equipment. In the spring of 1968, the company began a project to provide a totally buried cable plant and the offering of one-party service. A loan was received from REA and contracts were let for 107 miles of buried cable and all new central office

equipment. The project went into service in the summer of 1971. It was one of the first companies to provide its subscribers with one-party service.

In July of 1982, the Royal Telephone Company received a franchise to provide CATV to the city of Royal. The system was built and cut into service in January 1983.

With plans for new digital equipment in August 1984, an adjacent lot was purchased to provide room for an addition to our present building. In 1985, plans were finalized for the additions to our present building. The addition was completed and moved into in February of 1986.

The company was active in cellular, being a general partner in Three Lakes Cellular Inc. and Cherokee Cellular Inc. In 1989, a new digital switch was purchased from Northern Telecom which was cut into service on December 12, 1989.

The company serves about 400 telephone subscribers and 180 CATV customers.

Fast forward to the start of the internet, the Royal Telephone Company provided internet service via dial-up over the copper plant.

In 1995 the Royal Telephone Company purchased a Ditch-Witch plow so they could better serve the community. The Telephone Company also start putting in fiber optic cable as a joint project with five other companies Ruthven Telephone Exchange Company, River Valley Telephone Coop(Graettinger), Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association (Havelock-West Bend), Ayrshire Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, and Webb-Dickens Telephone Corp. This fiber will allow us to go to Spencer to connect with INS.

In 2001 the company made the decision to upgrade the exchange with fiber optic cable replacing the existing copper plant. In 2002 the fiber ring was placed in service. In 2005 the Company began installing fiber to homes and businesses throughout the Town. In 2006 construction of fiber to the home in the rural exchange and town was completed. This new technology provides residents of the Royal Telephone Company Exchange with access to secure and highspeed broadband, Telephone Service and Internet Protocol Television. The Royal Telephone Company partners in a fiber optic transport ring serving multiple communities in Northwest Iowa along with Northern Iowa Communications Partners which powers the Switching, Broadband and IPTV services.

In 2020 the Royal Telephone Company upgraded internet packages at no cost to the subscriber. The focus for the future is to provide Royal and its rural residents with secure and latest advances in Broadband, Telephone and Television Services.

The Royal Telephone Company motto is: To remain a viable business in our community and to keep updated on new technology and equipment so we can provide our customers with the best possible services available at the most economical cost possible.