

From: **Atkins, Mark A** <[mark.a.atkins@wv.gov](mailto:mark.a.atkins@wv.gov)>  
Date: Thu, Jun 23, 2022 at 2:49 PM  
Subject: Data Transport Services - Emergency Approval  
To: Lore, Andrew C <[andrew.c.lore@wv.gov](mailto:andrew.c.lore@wv.gov)>, Jessica L Hovanec <[jessica.l.hovanec@wv.gov](mailto:jessica.l.hovanec@wv.gov)>  
Cc: Mark L Totten <[mark.l.totten@wv.gov](mailto:mark.l.totten@wv.gov)>

Andrew,

Your request for an emergency contract to procure Data Transport Services to maintain continuity of services is approved. This emergency approval is for the 12 month period requested (July 01, 2022 to Jun 30, 2023) or a not to exceed amount of \$6,000,000.00. This approval is not an endorsement for any brand, model, manufacturer, or vendor.

Please follow all emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook and return all documentation to the Purchasing Division buyer for processing within 30 days of this approval.

Sincerely,

*Mark A. Atkins, CPPB*

**Buyer Supervisor, Statewide Contracts**  
**West Virginia Department of Administration**  
**Purchasing Division**  
**2019 Washington Street, East**  
**POB 50130**  
**Charleston, WV 25305-0130**

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*"Tell me and I will Forget, Show me and I may remember, Involve me and I will understand"*

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APPROVED  
*[Signature]*  
6/23/22.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY

State Capitol  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Mark D. Scott  
Cabinet Secretary

Joshua D. Spence  
Chief Information Officer

**TO:** Jessica Hovanec  
Senior Buyer, Purchasing Division

**FROM:** Andrew Lore *[Signature]*  
WVOT Procurement Manager/ISMII, West Virginia Office of Technology

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Contract for Data Transport Services – Data Transport E

**DATE:** June 23, 2022

The West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT) is requesting a one-year emergency contract for the continuation of services offered under the current Statewide Contract for data transport services (SWC\*02)<sup>1</sup>. This emergency contract is necessary to ensure no disruption of network connectivity to the agencies, while the WVOT evaluates and awards a replacement contract, and then migrates the current network to a potentially new solution. Lastly, and as explained in more detail below, the WVOT is requesting the emergency contract be awarded to Verizon Business, the current holder of SWC\*02, as another provider is not practical.

The WVOT published the Request for Proposal (CRFP SWC22\*01) for a replacement data transport contract – called Data Transport 2.0 – and four (4) bids were received on June 16, 2022. Currently, the WVOT is evaluating the proposals, some of which are over 400 pages of highly technical, detailed information. In short, the evaluation process could be potentially lengthy, including technical evaluations, Oral Presentations, cost openings, administrative paperwork, and the award process. While it is a priority for the Data Transport 2.0 contract to be awarded, it simply takes time to award something so complex; however, the State still requires the services offered on SWC\*02. This emergency replacement contract will provide agencies continued network connectivity, encompassing everything from shared files access to VoIP usability.

Additionally, even as the WVOT evaluates and awards a replacement contract, this emergency would be necessary. That is, the migration period between providers can be a cumbersome, time-consuming process. This Emergency will provide the necessary time to transition to a potentially new solution, as a successful Vendor is required to transition from SWC\*02 to Data Transport 2.0 in one year. As agencies are transitioned to the new solution, the services from SWC\*02 will be discontinued and costs for this Emergency will decrease.

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<sup>1</sup> For this memo's purpose, the current Data Transport Contract held by Verizon will be referred to as SWC\*02 and the new, replacement will be referred to as Data Transport 2.0.

Lastly, the WVOT is requesting the Emergency be awarded to the incumbent, Verizon Business, as no other vendor can realistically provide the services in the given timeframe. As noted, transitioning the network takes considerable time. If the State were to award to a company other than Verizon, the State would have to transition to this third party and then potentially transition again to the successful winner of Data Transport 2.0. Adding a second layer of transition would only result in a slower migration to the Data Transport 2.0 solution, not to mention the administrative and technical difficulties for the agencies. The estimated annual cost for these services is \$6,000,000 with costs decreasing as agencies transition to Data Transport 2.0.

Because of the foregoing reasons, the WVOT is requesting a one-year Emergency Contract, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, for data transport services with Verizon Business for continuity of services as the State transitions to a replacement solution.

Please let me know if you need anything further to support this request.