



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26-0013

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: April 7, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving Award for the Proprietary Purchase of Annual Telephone
Communication Services - AT&T Florida - \$160,072 - (**Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a one (1)-year proprietary purchase for telephone communication services with AT&T Florida in the estimated amount of \$160,072.

Background

The City has had a Contract Service Arrangement Agreement for Communication Services with AT&T Florida since 2011. The services include a variety of telephony functions to the City, including incoming and outgoing local, long distance, international, and emergency calls. These services are essential for keeping City departments connected, safe, and able to communicate internally and externally. The communication services support the City's day-to-day operations and emergency readiness as follows:

- Centrex lines provide traditional desk phone services across many City departments. These lines allow staff to place and receive phone calls from their offices, helping employees coordinate activities and services, respond to public requests and inquiries, and communicate with one another.
- Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) lines are older, analog phone lines still widely used in critical safety systems. They connect to essential systems such as fire alarm panels, emergency elevator phones, and security systems. These lines are valued for their reliability, often remaining operational during power outages or network failures, making them a vital safety backup during emergencies.
- Primary Rate Interface (PRI) lines support the City's internal phone network. They handle a high volume of calls by linking multiple phone lines through a single connection, which makes them efficient for larger departments or call centers.
- Remote call forwarding (RCF) is a telephone service that allows calls made to a designated City number to be automatically redirected to another phone line, such

as a mobile device or a different office location. This service is especially useful when calls need to be routed to centralized support teams.

Though the agreement expired in 2014, the City's local services continue to auto-renew annually, allowing the placement of orders, changes, and pricing under the original rates. Both service offerings and associated pricing have remained unchanged to date.

Beginning in 2023, the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department audited and reviewed all existing AT&T services to ensure that a renewal would be cost effective and beneficial. The department completed its assessment in 2024, concluding that transitioning the City's PRI lines to the Florida statewide telecommunications contract, Suncom, would provide enhanced coverage, modernized services, standardization, regulatory and contractual compliance, and cost efficiency. As of April 2025, all PRI services were successfully moved by piggybacking onto Suncom's contract with the State of Florida. These services have been canceled under the AT&T agreement.

Under the AT&T agreement, the remaining services including, but not limited to, POTS, Centrex, and RCF continue to be used for critical communications such as elevator systems, fire panels, backup lines, and emergency response services. ITS Voice Engineers are currently working to transition these services under a new contract, with a target completion date by the end of 2026.

Outside the primary agreement, the City maintains one separate AT&T account, which provides internet services at the Flexential facility, supporting the City's data center operations.

The City's existing AT&T the services are customized to meet the specific communication needs of the City. These services are considered proprietary for the purpose of maintaining business continuity during this period.

Pursuant to Section 2-181(f)(3), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the City may purchase proprietary items, as defined in Section 2-173, without competitive solicitation. As defined by the Code, a proprietary item is not readily available from more than one supplier, manufacturer, or person and is unique in nature without competitive solicitation.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$160,072. Funds are available in the account listed below.

<i>Funds available as of March 2, 2026</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-581-2230-516-30-3628	Infrastructure & Operations Services	30-3628 Telephone/Cabe TV	\$5,735,819	\$648,933	\$160,072
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$160,072

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Guiding Principle: Technology Adaptation

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are United.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- The Implementation Element
- Goal 1: The Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan shall accomplish the City’s Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision 2035 Plan regarding the City’s future growth and the six Cylinders of Excellence and shall be the City’s primary policy document to guide all of its activities and development.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - AT&T Contract Service Arrangement Agreement

Prepared by: Marco Urquidi, Senior Financial Administrator, Information Technology Services
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Department Directors: Ron McKenzie, Information Technology Services
 Glenn Marcos, Procurement Services