

Does the District anticipate awarding discrete portions of the scope (e.g., network, cameras, telephony) to qualified VAR/MSP firms, even if a single vendor does not perform all seven technology areas?

Yes, while a single vendor for all seven technology areas is preferred, the District may award each technology area to separate vendors if the result is in the best interest of the District.

For vendors focused on procurement, deployment, and operational support, should responses be limited to design-assist and implementation rather than stamped engineering deliverables?

The first phase of this project is to provide the Architectural Team with input and guidance for all necessary specifications to be included in the final construction drawings. This includes equipment locations, wiring and power requirements, cooling requirements, and all other necessary infrastructure design requirements for building construction. Once building construction commences, a Vendor will install, test, and certify all systems for use.

Will the District or Architectural Team retain responsibility for final engineering validation, code compliance, and sealed drawings where required?

Unless otherwise noted, the Architect will retain responsibility for all final engineering validation and code compliance in the final construction drawings. Vendor will be asked to assist the Architect to ensure completeness.

Will all technology vendors coordinate installations through a general contractor-managed construction schedule?

Yes. Construction is anticipated to start in July 2026 with the building dried-in by Fall 2026. System installation will commence after the building is sealed on a schedule managed by the general contractor.

Should vendors assume low-voltage cabling is provided by others, with the Vendor responsible for termination, configuration, and deployment?

All rough installation of cabling and conduits will be provided by the general contractor per plan specifications.

Are there anticipated phased cutovers or early-occupancy areas requiring partial system activation?

No.

Does the District anticipate separate contracts for:

- Design-assist
- Procurement and installation
- Ongoing MSP / managed services

Ideally, a single preferred Vendor will be identified, and contracts for design, installation, and maintenance will be awarded. If no single Vendor is identified, then separate contracts will be negotiated for various parts of the project as needed.

Will the District consider vendors under state or cooperative purchasing contracts for hardware and services?

Yes.

Will physical intrusion detection and access control be handled by a separate specialty security vendor, or should camera vendors plan for system interoperability?

Ideally, the access control, intrusion detection, security cameras, and related physical security systems should be fully integrated by single or multiple vendors.

Is the District open to vendors proposing camera platforms and VMS solutions based on operational needs rather than predefined manufacturers?

Yes.

Should camera system scope include:

- Hardware procurement
- Installation and configuration
- Retention policies and storage sizing
- Ongoing monitoring or managed services

Yes.

STATION ALERTING/NOTIFICATION SYSTEM QUESTIONS

Which vendor does the District prefer?

The District prefers Westnet or Phoenix G2 but will consider other options.

For network, telephony, and camera systems, is the District seeking:

- Conceptual design narratives and diagrams suitable for construction coordination

Fully engineered construction drawings

Depending upon the complexity of design, Vendor may be asked to provide fully engineered construction drawings to the Architectural Team. This can be addressed in the Vendor contract for services.

Is it acceptable for vendors like to provide manufacturer-validated designs (e.g., network topology, camera placement, Wi-Fi heatmaps) without professional engineering stamps?

Yes, if the design meets code requirements and contract specifications.

Will the Architectural or MEP team incorporate vendor-provided system layouts into the final construction documents?

Yes.

Approximately how many:

End-user workstations

Network drops

Wireless access points are anticipated at this stage

Based upon the current floorplan design, 16-20 workstations, network drops into 14 rooms, and WAPs sufficient to provide coverage throughout the building.

Are there preferred network or firewall platforms already in use by the District?

The District does not have a preferred platform.

Should vendors assume responsibility for:

Network hardware procurement

Configuration and deployment

Ongoing managed services and cybersecurity support

Yes.

Are there specific compliance requirements (e.g., HIPAA, CJIS-adjacent, state cybersecurity standards) that should inform network and security design?

System design should meet State of Montana IT security requirements and be HIPAA and NDAA compliant.

How many total workstations?

Anticipated up to 16 permanent workstations with additional temporary workstations as needed in the Multi-Purpose Room during an emergency.

What are the port requirements?

Determined by Vendor.

How many devices would be POE?

Determined by Vendor but it is anticipated that all security cameras would be POE.

How many users will be going through the network?

Daily full-time employees = 6-10. Board meetings, training classes, and emergency operations could add 30+ additional users on Wi-Fi and/or temporary workstations.

What is the internet speed?

It is anticipated that fiber internet will be available at the building at gigabit speeds backed up by Starlink satellite data service at slower speeds.

What level of end-user and administrator training is expected for network, telephony, and camera systems?

The District expects basic end-user training for all personnel (up to 50 people) and specific system administrator training for day-to-day operations for 2-3 management staff. All advanced technical, troubleshooting, and system repair issues will be the responsibility of the Vendor.

Is the District interested in ongoing managed services, including:

- Network monitoring
- Patch management
- Security updates
- Hardware lifecycle support

Yes.

Should maintenance proposals include defined SLAs and response times?

These specifics may be included in the proposal or addressed in the Vendor contract.

Is the District currently using a hosted VoIP or cloud-based phone system that should be extended to the new facility?

While the District currently uses a VOIP telephone system, there is no requirement that this system be used/moved to the new building.

Should vendors propose cloud-managed telephony and paging, including:

Handsets

Paging zones

Voicemail and call routing

Yes.

Are mobile devices expected to be part of paging or alert workflows?

Under the Station Alerting and Notification technology area, mobile devices are a required part of the workflow. This includes radios, pagers, and smartphones.

Will exterior intercom systems be included in the telephony scope or treated as a separate security system?

Any intercom systems should be included in the telephony scope.