



## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 21.

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 5, 2010

**REQUESTED BY:** Mike Taylor, Library Director

**SHORT TITLE:** Resolution Authorizing the Library to Apply for a Federal Stimulus Grant (\$49,042) for Public Computing Improvements and Commit to Sustain 20% Ongoing Monthly Service Charges Beginning FY 2011-12

**BACKGROUND:** The State Library of NC is applying on behalf of public libraries who may qualify to receive federal stimulus funding to increase Internet broadband and improve public access. On very short notice, the state notified Pender that the public library in Burgaw could participate to apply for \$49,042 in federal stimulus money for this purpose. A breakdown of how the funds would be used is attached. The central library in Burgaw was deemed eligible by the State to apply based on the unemployment rate and per capita income of the service area.

To apply, the county had to sign a letter of commitment within four work days stating that if the grant was awarded and accepted, it would commit to paying for ongoing broadband service costing an estimated \$390/month after a federal 80% e-rate subsidy would take effect in FY2011-12. The grant would pay 100% of the monthly costs for up to year after the grant would be implemented in FY2010-11.

The grant would increase the Internet speed used by the public from 2.5 mbps (megabyte per second) to 50 mbps, purchase hardware to reduce wait time and increase the time an individual may use a computer on a daily basis. Last year, 20,987 people signed in to use the public computers in Burgaw. Although the Hampstead Branch does not qualify to apply for the grant, the library can also apply for e-rate subsidy there lowering current costs by 80%. County Manger Benton informed the Board by email of the opportunity, signed the letter, and the library submitted the application with the understanding that formal approval from the Board of Commissioners would then be required.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** To consider a resolution to authorize Pender County Public Library to continue in the application process to apply for the \$49,042 Public Computing Center grant with a letter of commitment to budget in FY 2011-12 for the remaining ongoing monthly costs of broadband Internet, estimated at no more than \$390/month, after the 80% federal e-rate monthly subsidy takes effect.



# Technology Upgrade Plan: Letter of Commitment

## Technology Upgrade Plan

Prepared for

*Pender County Public Library (Burgaw)*

New Technology*	Count	Value
Laptops	10	\$14,000
Laptop Carts	1	\$1,000
6 Year Laptop Security Software Subscription	10	\$1,760

	Y/N	Reason
New Internet Connection Proposed?	Yes	

Internet Connection	Current Speed	Current Cost	Proposed Speed*	Proposed Cost*
Speed (Mbps)	1.5	n/a	50	n/a
Monthly Recurring Internet Charge before E-Rate	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$1,950
Federal E-Rate Subsidy	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$1,560
Monthly Recurring Internet Charge to Library	n/a	\$0	n/a	\$390**
Federal E-Rate Discount	n/a		n/a	80%

New Local Area Network Equipment*	Count	Value
Equipment Bundle (Router, Firewall, Switch)	1	\$6,382
WiFi Routers	1	\$400

Total Value of Grant*	\$49,042
Monthly Cost to Library*	\$390**

\* All planned equipment and cost estimates are best current assumptions and may change before the submission of the final application

\*\* Library will be responsible for this monthly cost after 12 months.

## Letter of Commitment

*I have reviewed the stimulus proposal for our library. As the local government entity that approves/provides funding, we can confirm that the library will be able to make monthly payments of approximately \$390 to sustain an upgraded internet connection. However, stimulus funds will be used to pay for the full monthly internet charge for the first year of the project. All of these figures and equipment represent the maximum allocation and are subject to decrease based on project budget changes.*

Please fax your completed form to Grant Pair at the State Library of North Carolina at 919-733-8748.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Library Director's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Funding Authority's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Funding Authority's Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Library Director's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Funding Authority's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date