

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: July 17, 2024

SUBJECT: ARPA Project Update – Mills River Tower

PRESENTER: Jimmy Brissie, Emergency Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: No

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Since 2019 Staff have been working diligently with a prospective commercial cellular carrier to expand their service onto our emergency communications tower on Forge Mountain in Mills River. At the direction of the Board staff have been able to renegotiate our lease with the property owner to allow for commercial co-location and negotiate an agreement with a cellular carrier. This project includes the replacement of our existing tower to support the additional load of a cellular carrier.

We have received the necessary approvals from the FCC and FAA for the tower replacement. The County will be publishing an RFQ for the construction of a new tower and anticipate presenting a qualified respondent for the Board's consideration in August. Upon the selection of a contractor staff will work to develop a construction contract for the Board's consideration.

An initial project budget of \$150,000 was developed during 2021. It is anticipated the costs will exceed the original project budget as the scope has been modified for additional cellular carriers and additional infrastructure needs have been identified. We also anticipate inflation will have an impact on the original projections.

Staff have identified additional funding for this project and will bring a formal request to the Board as current cost estimates are further defined.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No board action is requested, this item is for information only.