

FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Item # 7.b.

Meeting Date:

3/30/04

SUBJECT: Purchase of a Cisco Catalyst 6509 Core Network Switch

Jim Daley, Manager - Information Services

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

A network switch acts as a data "traffic cop" routing data on the network between the main computer servers and desktop PC workstations. Switches play different roles such as routing data traffic from a desktop PC workstation to the main network trunk, from the main network trunk to the servers, from the servers to the data storage, etc. The core network switch is the main switch connecting all of these switches together. All data is routed through the core network switch making it a potential throughput bottleneck and the most significant single point of failure on the network. The core network switch is designed with the performance and redundancy specifications necessary to meet these demanding requirements.


Our current core network switch is 5 years old and no longer supported by the manufacturer. It operates at the same traffic throughput rate as all of the other switches on the network. Today we are unable to increase the data traffic throughput on all of our servers making the core network switch a key bottleneck on our network. In addition, it will not support our network upgrade plans for the coming year which includes sending telephone traffic on the data network, centralizing our data storage and dividing up the network so that we are better protected in the event of a virus attack.

The Cisco Catalyst 6509 core network switch will increase the throughput performance ten-fold allowing us to upgrade the data traffic rates between the servers and the data storage. It supports setting priorities for different types of data traffic such as telephone traffic. It includes network management functionality that will allow us to better protect our network from outside attacks. It also has more built-in redundant hardware to ensure that our network stays in operation in the event of a hardware component failure.

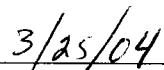
The Cisco Catalyst 6509 core network switch is included in the 2004 budget. A summary of the bids received is attached.

UTILITY BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Utility Board approval a purchase order agreement with Venture Computer as lowest responsible bidder for \$73,390.56 for a Cisco Catalyst 6509 core network switch.



General Manager



Date



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Public Utility Board of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, to approve a purchase order agreement with Venture Computer for:

Cisco Catalyst 6509 Core Network Switch

The amount of the purchase order agreement to be SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY AND 56/100 DOLLARS (\$73,390.56) and Venture Computer being lowest responsible bidder.

Passed by the Public Utility Board of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, this 30th day of March, 2004.

President

Secretary