

## **State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education**

November 8, 2023

**TOPIC:** Front Range Community College Request for Spending Authority for Wireless Network Infrastructure (WIFI) Upgrades

**PRESENTED BY:** Dr. Colleen Simpson, President

### **RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Goal 4:** Refine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

### **EXPLANATION:**

Front Range Community College (FRCC) seeks spending authority approval in the amount of \$3,800,000 to upgrade the College's wireless network infrastructure (WIFI) at the three campuses, located in Fort Collins, Westminster and Longmont. The project will also isolate the network for the College's Campus Security by upgrading security related IT hardware and providing emergency backup power to the security cameras, access control and radio systems.

Since the pandemic, FRCC has moved from a predominately wired network using traditional desktops to a laptop and mobile device-based environment using WIFI. FRCC removed 40% of the employee desktops and replaced them with approximately 440 laptops operating on WIFI. Students have also moved from a paper/pencil method of taking notes to their own personal devices, further putting stress on the WIFI network.

In 2021 FRCC engaged an outside IT consultant to provide an inspection and analysis of how to modernize and improve the College's IT infrastructure network. Based on this work, the College formulated a Capital Information Technology project request, and in June, 2022, SBCCOE (State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education) ranked FRCC's request as the number one priority project for that year.

The project received FY 2023/2024 funding approval for \$3,420,000 from State-appropriated IT capital funds in the Long Bill, which will be supplemented by \$380,000 of College reserves, for a total project budget of \$3,800,000.

The College currently has an active Request for Proposal (RFP) which will result in the selection of a team to provide an integrated project delivery method utilizing a design/build guaranteed maximum price service contract. Design will be completed in March, 2024 and equipment installation and any minor construction needed will be completed by June, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board approve the spending authority for Front Range Community College in the amount of \$3,800,000 and delegate the signature authority of the board to the FRCC President on the condition that all State and Board required processes are met.