**Whenever there is a conflict between this addendum and the initial bid documents or plans, the addendum shall take precedence.**

**The deadline for sealed bids remains July 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM CST**

**(Additions are underlined; Omissions are strikethrough)**

**Section 1.1 is Amended as follows:**

Pursuant to this Request for Proposals (RFP), the County is seeking proposals from qualified companies, combinations of companies, business partnerships, public-private partnerships, and/or public providers, including non-profits and governmental entities (such entity or entities who submit a proposal to this RFP shall be collectively referred to herein as “firm”) to deliver a comprehensive solution that will provide reliable broadband internet service to at least 98% of serviceable locations in Jackson County, Florida. Specifically, the County is interested in receiving proposals for the planning, design, finance, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of the above-described broadband network that will meet certain minimum technical specifications further described in this RFP. As part of this RFP, the County will also accept and consider creative or innovative proposals that will expand broadband internet availability within the County, including but not limited to, design-build-finance proposals, proposals for the formation of a public-private partnership between the firm and the County, proposals from public internet providers, etc. The County seeks a commitment from a firm capable of operating and maintaining the broadband network upon build-out at their own cost and expense for a minimum of five years.

In the sole discretion of the County, the County may provide funding assistance for startup costs including but not limited to Wireless Infrastructure, Network Infrastructure, UPS Installation Tower Lease, Marketing, and purchase and installation of communications equipment. However, the County does not anticipate providing any funding toward operations of maintenance of the facilities and broadband network. Firms seeking funding assistance or other forms of contributions from the County should clearly identify this in their response.

**Section 2.5 – Funding, is Amended as Follows:**

**2.5 Funding; Business Plan**

**Business Plan:**

Provide a description of the general structure of the system and/or the “business plan”, including who owns the infrastructure, who is responsible for maintenance, who is responsible for customer service/billing/marketing. Additionally, describe any responsibilities that would fall to the County.

The County is considering the utilization of American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“ARPA”) funds to fund some or all or a portion of any County contributions (if required) related to the establishment of the broadband network. Pursuant to the APRA Interim Final Rule adopted by Treasury, there are specific requirements related to the use of APRA funds for broadband projects. All Firms are expected to familiarize themselves with these requirements. Amongst these requirements, ARPA funds may only be used for the provision of broadband service to areas currently considered “unserved or underserved,” meaning they lack a wireline connection capable of delivering minimum speeds of at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed. In the event the County elects to utilize ARPA funds for this project, the successful Firm’s scope of services shall include assisting the County with the delineation of areas within the County that meet the above-stated definition of unserved or underserved.

Firms should structure their responses with the understanding that the County intends to retain ownership of all network infrastructure and equipment that may be procured utilizing County funds, or alternatively, the County shall retain a sufficient security interest in such infrastructure and equipment to allow the County to recover such assets in the event of a default by the Firm. Further, all responsive Firms understand and acknowledge that the procurement of construction services and professional services (as defined in Section 287.055, F.S.) for any County-owned infrastructure or improvements related to the creation of the broadband network shall be in accordance with all applicable requirements of federal and state law and the County’s adopted ordinances, policies, and regulations.

**Section 2.6 is Amended as Follows:**

County reserves the right to add/delete items from this proposal as needed and in order to meet budget availability or as otherwise determined to be in the best interests of the County. By way of example, the County may elect to enter into a contract with a Firm to perform some but not all of the work described herein related to the establishment of the contemplated broadband network.

**Section 4.4 is Amended as Follows:**

Submittals in response to this Solicitation will be reviewed against the criteria listed herein, and the award of a contract(s), if any, shall be made in accordance with standard purchasing procedures, the Jackson County Procurement Policy, and applicable regulations of the State of Florida.

It is anticipated that the County will authorize the negotiation of a contract with the highest ranked Firm. In the event negotiations with the highest ranked Firm are unsuccessful, the County may authorize contract negotiations with other responsive Firms in the order in which they were ranked. Provided, the County reserves the right to the right to reject any and all, or parts of any and all proposals, to re-advertise this solicitation, postpone or cancel, at any time, this solicitation process, or to waive minor irregularities and informalities in this RFP ~~RFQ~~ or in the proposal received as a result of this RFP ~~RFQ.~~ The County does not guarantee the award of any contract as a result of this solicitation process.