

Priority Area:

Increase Economic Opportunities

Goal/Objective:

Make the City of Joplin more attractive to new residents and business through improving technology.

Strategy 1- Implement Smart City Initiative relating to internet/broadband connectivity to make the City more attractive to business development.**Action Steps:**

- a. Working with Guidehouse and US Ignite to formulate strategies for Smart City development for the City and identify potential project list to benefit the business community and its residents/workforce.
- b. Established Smarter Joplin Steering Committee to advance community-focused Smart Cities development for the City
 1. Reviewing previously developed (and City Council approved) Joplin Smart Cities Roadmap.
 2. Established workgroup to function under the Steering Committee to identify internet/broadband connectivity issues and potential solutions.
 3. Undertake concurrent Smart Cities projects while awaiting completion of the recommended City of Joplin Internet/Broadband Gap Analysis Study.
- c. At request of City of Joplin staff following input from the Joplin Smart Cities Steering Committee, partnered with Guidehouse to solicit an Internet/Broadband Gap Analysis Study. Responses to the RFP to undertake this study are due back to Guidehouse on 2/4/2021.
- d. Complete survey for Steering Committee's Internet/Broadband Workgroup from various community resources seeking additional connectivity information based on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- e. Based on data received, assist the Workgroup and Steering Committee to select project(s) and funding sources that enhance internet capacity.

Resources Required:

1. Staff time for participation in initiative; 1.0 FTE in Planning, Zoning and Neighborhood Services as Guidehouse transitions off project. (All subject to results of Internet/Broadband Gap Analysis proposals for community improvement projects).

Total Plan Cost:

Total Additional FTE: 1.0

One-Time Costs: TBD

Staffing Annual Costs: \$66,000

Program Annual Costs: TBD

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Desired Benefit/Outcome:

- Improved technology capabilities in the City of Joplin to support sustainable economic development.
- Increase the community’s ability to attract entrepreneurs, startup companies, and technology based businesses.
- Attract and retain youthful population and prevent “Brain Drain”.

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