

The County of Yuba

Sheriff-Coroner



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Wendell Anderson, Sheriff-Coroner

SUBJECT: Sheriff-Coroner: Approve the Master Services Agreement between the Global Tel*Link Corporation (GTL) and Yuba County for Jail inmate telephone services and tablets in the Yuba County Jail, and authorize Chair to execute.

DATE: September 22, 2020

NUMBER: 465/2020

Recommendation:

Approve the Master Services Agreement between Global Tel*Link (GTL) and County of Yuba for Jail inmate telephone and tablet services in the Yuba County Jail, and authorize Chair to execute.

Background:

The Yuba County Jail has had an Agreement with GTL since 2005 to provide inmate telephone services in our facility. This Agreement includes all telephone equipment and infrastructure needed for the system at no cost to the County of Yuba or the Sheriff's Department. Telephones are distributed throughout the facility for inmate use. Calls for legal services are provided at no cost to the inmates or the Sheriff's Department, but personal phone calls are charged at a per-minute rate and that cost is assumed by the inmates or others who pay on their behalf.

Our current Agreement with GTL expired at the end of 2019 and we have been operating ever since on an extension while we went through the RFP process.

This new Agreement also includes providing inmates with tablets for use inside the facility. This is not something we provided before, but tablets are now common in Jail facilities. Inmates will be able to use the tablets to access a wide-range of programs at no cost to them. Such programs will include vocational training programs, educational programs like GED, law library services, religious services, substance abuse programs, parenting classes and much more.

Inmates will also be able to use the tablets to access music, movies, recreational reading material, and games, but those items are purchased by the inmate using their personal funds.

Like the inmate telephone system, the complete costs of the tablets, charging stations, WiFi, cabling, installation and maintenance is the responsibility of GTL. There will be no cost to the County of Yuba or the Sheriff's Department.

Discussion:

Minimum standards for detention facilities established by the State of California require inmates to have reasonable access to telephones. This Agreement extends an already existing contract with GTL to provide telephone access.

We are expanding the Agreement to include the tablet program. While not legally required, the use of tablets in detention facilities have become an industry norm as it is an excellent way to provide and expand programs to inmates. These programs focus on rehabilitation with the goal of ending recidivism. They also prepare individuals for reintegration into society following incarceration.

We currently provide many of these programs by using local instructors and/or community volunteers to present programs in-person in our facility. However, we have limited classroom space and we are dependent on the availability of instructors and volunteers. We have no intention of ending our in-person programs. Instead, we want to supplement them with the programs available through the tablets.

Committee Action:

Since this is an extension and upgrade of an agreement that has been in place for many years, and in order to make the services available to the inmates as soon as possible, this item was placed directly on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

Fiscal Impact:

General Fund - None

Non-General Fund - None

Source of Funds - Any expenses not covered by GTL will be made from the Public Safety fund and reimbursed from the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund.

Attachment:

465/2020 Agreement