

# The Board of County Commissioners of

Muskogee County  
400 W Broadway  
Muskogee, OK 74401  
918-682-9601

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A RESOLUTION OF THE Muskogee Board of County Commissioners OF Muskogee County, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING A NONBINDING COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND ECOLINK, A SUBSIDIARY OF EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, TO BRING HIGH SPEED FIBER BROADBAND TO THE TOWN AND NEARBY AREAS EFFECTIVE 11/8/2021.

WHEREAS, the Town reports average internet connection speeds of less than 25 megabits per second downstream and less than 3 megabits per second upstream. The town does not meet the minimum federal standards for broadband connectivity.

WHEREAS, highspeed broadband is required for distance learning, telecommuting, telemedicine, and most modern commercial endeavors.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE Muskogee Board of County Commissioners AS FOLLOWS,

SECTION I. The Town commits, in a non-binding manner, to working with ecoLINK and their partners to secure funding through upcoming state and federal grants for the purpose of bringing fiber broadband to the Town.

### Signatories

Keith Hyslop, BOCC Chairman  
Kenny Payne, Vice-Chairman  
Ken Doke, Member

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2021.

Muskogee Board of County Commissioners

By: Keith Hyslop

Keith Hyslop, BOCC Chairman

By: Kenny Payne

Kenny Payne, Vice-Chairman

By: Ken Doke

Ken Doke, Member

ATTEST: Polly Irving

Polly Irving, County Clerk



## Letter of Commitment

Date: 11/8/2021

The State of Oklahoma  
Oklahoma State Capitol,  
2300 N Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Project Reviewers,

The on-going pandemic gives strong evidence that reliable high-speed internet connectivity is no longer a luxury but a necessity. No one is more effected by the lack of broadband than rural America where connectivity is minimal or non-existent. Households in rural areas cannot participate in the digital economy and children living in rural areas do not have access to distance learning. Every home in rural areas should have access to high-speed reliable internet and phone capabilities.

The Muskogee County in partnership with ecoLINK is proposing to make high speed gigabit internet available to 100% of their population by building fiber to the home (FTTH) broadband infrastructure. The Muskogee Board of County Commissioners Voted on 11/8/2021 to approve this proposal and request federal/state funds for the same.

Broadband Deployment with FTTH is an eligible and recommended project under the final rules of the Treasury for the Covid Fiscal Recovery Funds. ecoLINK, a subsidiary of East Central Electric Cooperative, is an established internet service provider dedicated to bringing FTTH to underserved rural Oklahomans. It is currently offering gigabit internet to its members as it aggressively expands the network.

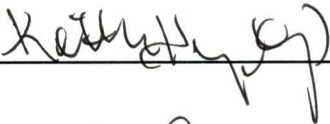
Most of the population of \_\_\_\_\_ of Muskogee County does not have access to broadband. This takes a heavy social and economic toll on our residents keeping them from participating in remote work, distance learning and the digital economy. This is

especially true during the time of the ongoing pandemic. Muskogee County and ecoLINK together estimate that it will cost a total of \_\_\_\_\_ to bring high speed gigabit internet to the \_\_\_\_\_ households within city limits. We are requesting this total amount from the State and are committed to build FTTH to every household in the city.

We respectfully request that the state will approve this project and provide us with the necessary funds to execute this project.

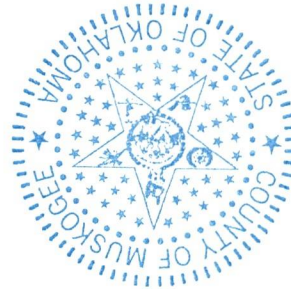
Sincerely,

Muskogee Board of County Commissioners

  
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Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Polly Irving County Clerk