

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR DANE COUNTY JAIL RESIDENT
TELEPHONE AND VIDEO VISITATION SERVICE**

Dane County and its Sheriff are responsible for the keeping of the Dane County Jail and caring for jail residents therein, including the provision of access to telephone and video visitation service.

Global Tel*Link Corporation d/b/a Viapath Technologies currently provides equipment, including installation, for jail resident phone and video visitation services. The 5-year contract expired on May 3, 2025 and a 6-month contract term extension was approved by the County Board until November 1, 2025. The Sheriff's Office and Viapath wish to extend the term of the contract an additional 12-months from November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026.

Dane County engaged in a competitive bidding process for a vendor to provide jail telephone and video visitation service to residents however, a new contract has not been approved by the County Board, to date. A new contract shall require at least 60-days to implement, once approved by the County Board.

As there is no pending contract, the Sheriff's Office faces a critical need to ensure that jail residents maintain their current services. A bid waiver is requested to extend the current jail communication contract with Viapath by addendum through October 31, 2026, with the provision that the contract can be terminated by the County at any time prior to that date with at least 60-days' written notice to Viapath.

Telephone and video visitation services provided by Viapath are at no cost to the County and Viapath shall pay the Sheriff's Office an administrative fee of \$6,500 per month from November 1, 2025 through the end of the extension period. The contract also requires Viapath to provide up to \$12,500 worth of free phone minutes for indigent residents.

The Sheriff's Office also requests an extension to the existing contract to provide time to obtain a new contract including allowing for an adequate transition period to ensure continuity in resident phone, tablet, and video visitation services. If the current contract is not extended, the jail will not have critical communications services including electronic general and basic need requests, social work and re-entry service requests, medical and mental health requests, and grievances. Also, jail residents will lose the ability to order commissary through the tablets and purchase entertainment, including the free access to e-books and educational programming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a bid waiver is granted and the term of Contract # 13979 is extended through October 31, 2026 to continue jail resident telephone and video visitation services; and

NOW, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Dane County Executive and the Dane County Clerk are authorized to execute the necessary documents for the contract term extension.