

CONWAY CORP BROADBAND-“P”

AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$7,154,400.00

ARP FUNDS RECEIVED

\$0.00

PEOPLE IMPACTED

**1,661 people would benefit from
this project.**

The project will install 63 miles of fiber optic cable in order to provide broadband to rural underserved areas just northwest of the city of Conway. This project minimizes operating expenses by limiting the amount of equipment to maintain and replace.



Faulkner County
American Rescue Plan / Coronavirus State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds Application

Organizational information

Name or organization: Conway Corporation

Physical address: 650 Locust St, Conway, AR 72034

Mailing address: PO Box 99, Conway, AR 72033

Phone: (501) 450-6000

CEO or Executive Director Information

Name: Bret Carroll, Chief Executive Officer

Email: Bret.Carroll@ConwayCorp.com

Financial Officer Information

Name: Tracy Moore, Chief Financial Officer

Email: Tracy.Moore@conwaycorp.com

Application Point of Contact

Name: Jeff Crownover, Telecommunication Systems Senior Designer

Email: Jeffery.Crownover@ConwayCorp.com

Phone: (501) 548-3001

Entity type or IRS registration: (501(c)3, LLC, sole proprietorship, etc.)

Public Utility Company

Brief History of the Organization

For more than 90 years, Conway Corp has operated the city-owned utility system and now provides electric, water, wastewater, video, internet, voice, and security services for the Conway community. Conway Corp is dedicated to exceeding customer expectations in producing and delivering safe, affordable, reliable, innovative, and environmentally sound utility telecommunication services while enhancing the quality of life in our community.

Financial Information

State or Federal Funds Received in Past Three Years (If so, list the grant name, the organization from whom it was received, the amount of funding received, and the status of the grant expenditure)

Conway Corp has not received state or federal grant funds for broadband expansion in the past three years.

Organizational Audits from (2019-2021)

Available if required

Organizational Annual Budgets (2020-2022)

Available if required

Certification Statement

The applicant certifies that any funds received through this Faulkner County granting program are fully subject to federal regulations and affirms that the funds will be properly spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The applicant further affirms that financial controls are in place such that each expenditure under the grant will be fully documented and that such documentation will be open to the public and available to the County for audit. The applicant understands that all aspects of their use of the grant are open to the public and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Funding Request Information

Which ARPA Category of Eligibility Applies to Applicant

- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to COVID-19
- Public Health and Economic Impacts – Responding to Negative Economic Impacts
- Investments in Infrastructure – Water and Sewer
- **Investments in Infrastructure – Broadband**
 - Conway Corp will utilize funds for a fiber to the home project for residents of Faulkner County.

Briefly State How Project Responds to COVID-19 Crisis

During COVID-19, all were forced to adapt to a new way of operating virtually. This is true of business and healthcare professionals, students, and residents simply asked to remain at home. Without face-to-face interaction, a tremendous burden was placed on all citizens. This was challenging for people who already had access to high quality broadband infrastructure, but it was much more difficult to those who reside in unserved or underserved rural areas, like the proposed funded service area (PFSA) in this application. The lack of access to comprehensive, high-quality, and competitive broadband capacity emphasized and inflated a vast digital divide between the two people groups.

The successful funding of this grant to Conway Corp will ensure that all residents in the PFSA have access to the digital economy through a powerful and future proof fiber to the home network. These residents will be well-positioned for future success no matter if the need is healthcare, education, entertainment, and simply connecting to loved ones. Access to more affordable, reliable, and faster broadband will improve the quality of life for those living and working in the PFSA as all inevitably rely more on their computers and devices as they email, read, complete homework assignments, and communicate with others. Conway Corp continually hears complaints of no access to internet connectivity that allows students to do homework, workers to work from home, or reasonable access to necessary healthcare services.

With grant support, Conway Corp is ready, willing, and able to make a long-term investment to provide qualifying broadband service to the challenging, proposed service area. Conway Corp is a trusted and well-respected service provider in the area and has previously completed fiber buildouts throughout its existing service area. Conway Corp recognizes the economic and community development opportunities associated with better broadband.

County-Wide Impact of Proposed Project

The proposed project is one that is needed to serve an area that is extremely difficult to reach without support. Like many areas across the country, the lack of sufficient and equitable broadband is a direct result from a lack of financial feasibility and sustainability. Without support, this area may continue to be unserved for the foreseeable future. Approval of this project will take a sizeable area and position it to take advantage of opportunities that stem from broadband infrastructure such as economic development, remote learning capabilities and health care, increased property values, and more.

Description of Project – Include the following information (in any order): What will this project accomplish? How will those goals be measured? How do these goals relate to the goals of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA)?

The goal of ARPA states that the funds will provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs, which includes necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. This grant application focuses squarely on broadband infrastructure by proposing to install a fiber to the premise project in rural underserved areas just northwest of the city of Conway, AR. The project will install 63 miles of fiber optic cable, facilitated by pole attachment agreement or county\state right-of-way, and supply highspeed broadband access to approximately 1,661 Faulkner residents and businesses, which are easily quantifiable metrics by which to measure progress. Once construction begins, it is estimated to take approximately 260 days to complete. Weather, equipment, and material delays could push the timeframe further. See [Appendix A](#) for a map of the PFSA.

The project will upgrade the existing PFSA broadband infrastructure by utilizing Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology. GPON is a point-to-multipoint access network, and it uses Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) for voice, Ethernet for data, and proprietary encapsulation for voice. A GPON system consists of an optical line terminal (OLT) that connects several optical network terminals (ONTs/ONUs) together using a passive optical distribution network (ODN). GPON was designed as a “future-proof” solution that supports advances of end user technology without upgrading the entire network infrastructure. This project minimizes operating expenses by limiting the amount of equipment to maintain and replace. GPON is considered a future proof technology, and it technically has limitless potential in terms of data download and upload speeds. See [Appendix B](#) for a Network Diagram.

Project Budget (If project includes construction or third-party services, please provide their estimates)

Please see [Appendix C](#) for a project budget. Conway Corp will be utilizing contractors for the construction of the project, and engineering and oversight services will be provided by CT&T Engineering and Consulting. Both construction labor and engineering services are listed separately on the budget.

Other Funds Being Utilized Besides ARPA (If so, list other sources of funding and a copy of their funding commitment.)

Conway Corp operating capital will be used for any unforeseen circumstances or shortcomings in the budget.

Description of the Organization's Financial Management Practices That Will Ensure Audit Compliance

Adherence to voluntary and compulsory standards are confirmed through regular compliance audits. These periodic surveys of policies, processes, procedures, files, and documentation are conducted by hired professionals or government auditors. These surveys verify the effectiveness of internal controls and processes to ensure that standards and regulations are met. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released the "Compliance and Reporting Guidance for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act. The Treasury Department states that the SLFRF Reporting Guidance has several features to ensure a speedy, equitable, transparent, and accountable recovery for all Americans. Conway Corp will maintain the highest standard in recording and reporting in order to meet and exceed compliance with ARPA funds utilization.

Total Funds Requested from Faulkner County

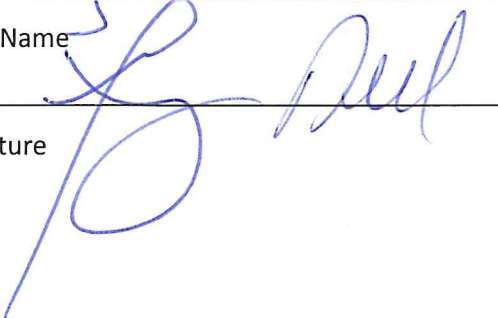
Conway Corp is requesting a grant in the amount of \$7,154,400.00.

Has Applicant Received ARPA or CARES Act Funds (If so, list the amount received)?

Conway Corporation has not received ARPA or CARES Act funds for broadband extension projects in the past.

Signature Page

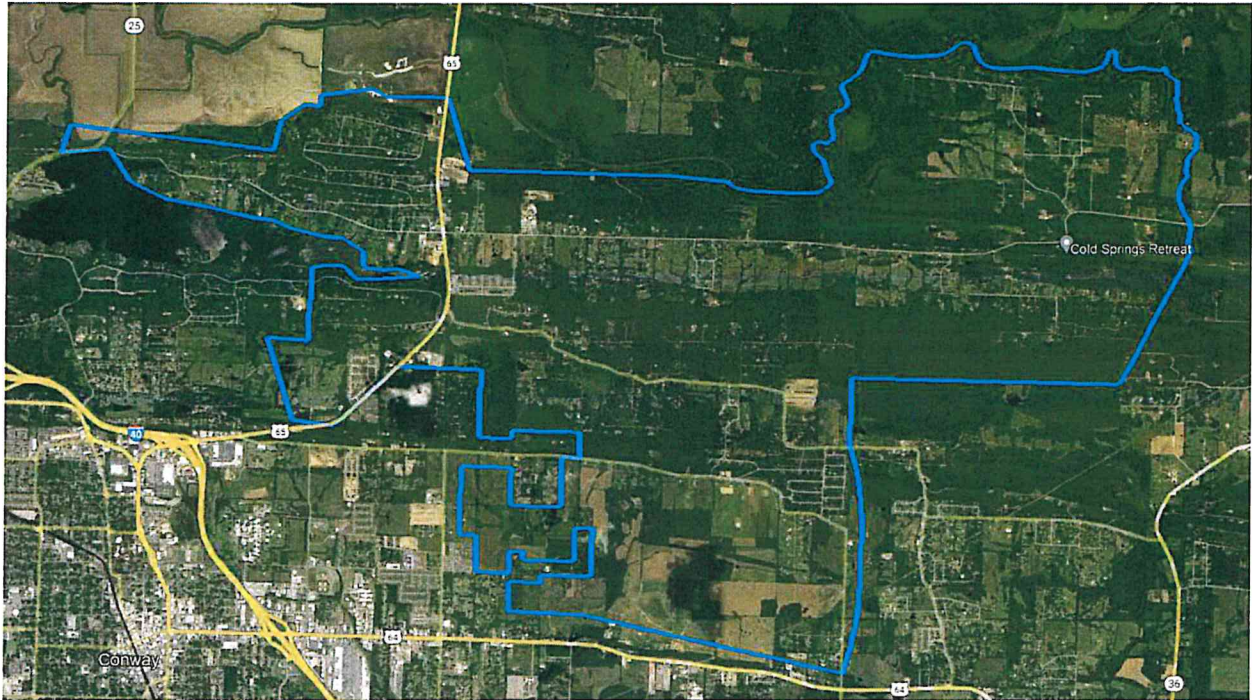
Authorized Representative: The signature indicates that I have been authorized to submit an application requesting funding for the proposed project and to the best of my knowledge and belief, all data contained in this application is true and correct. If the application is approved for funding, I am authorized to sign any applicable documents on behalf of the applicant.

<u>Greg Dell</u>	<u>COO</u>
Type Name	Title
<u></u>	<u>3-15-2022</u>
Signature	Date

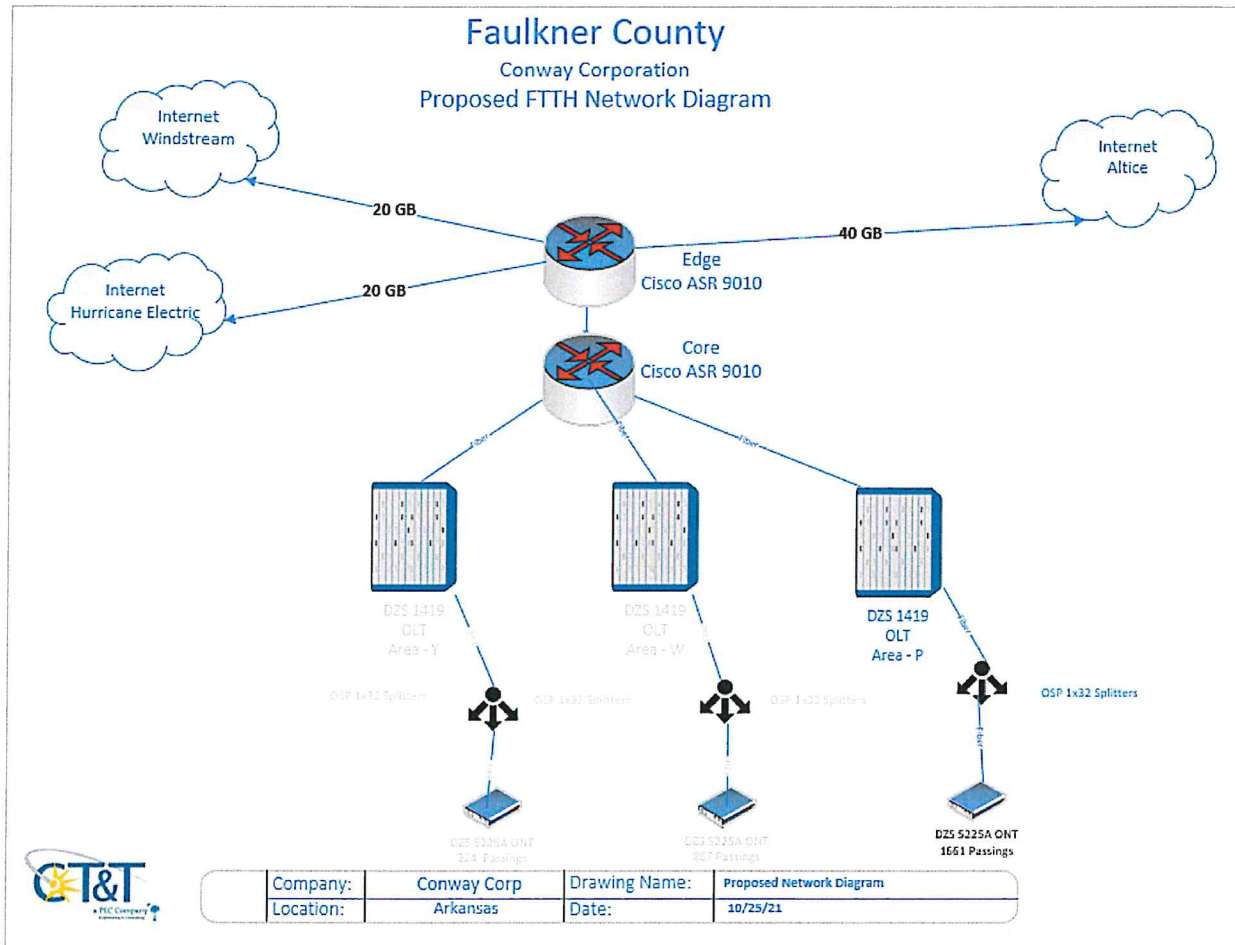
When completed return by mail or drop-off
to: Faulkner County Judge's Office
801 Locust Street
Conway, AR 7203

Appendix

Appendix A – Map of Proposed Funded Service Area



Appendix B – Network Diagram



Appendix C – Project Budget



Budget PDF.pdf

Project Budget

Project Lead: [Name]

Jeff Crownover

Description	Labor		Materials/Equipment		Budget Total
	Hours	Rate	Units	\$/Unit	
Fiber Mileage	34,650	\$100.00	63	\$5,000.00	\$3,780,000
Service Entrance Drops	2,492	\$200.00	1661	\$300.00	\$996,700
Fiber Cabinets	100	\$100.00	8	\$10,000.00	\$90,000
DZS ONTs	3,300	\$150.00	1661	\$300.00	\$993,300
DZS OLTs	35	\$200.00	8	\$10,000.00	\$87,000
OSP Splitters, Term. Panels & Jumpers	75	\$100.00	3	\$2,500.00	\$15,000
				Sub Total	\$5,962,000
Engineering Services					
Design - Staking ROW Permitting	6,359	\$75.00			\$476,960
Construction/project manage - inspector	9,539	\$75.00			\$715,440
				Eng Srv	\$1,192,400
				Project Total	\$7,154,400