



Crawford County

Library System

1409 Main Street, Van Buren, AR 72956

Phone 479.471.3226 Fax 479.471.3227 - <http://www.crawfordcountylib.org/>

October 23, 2017

In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking)
Comments on E-Rate Category Two)

WC Docket No. 13-184

I am pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. Before the E-Rate Modernization of 2014, the Crawford County Library System was not eligible to receive Priority 2 services since we did not qualify for the 90% discount rate. Our discount was in the 80% range; therefore we never applied for Priority 2 Services.

Since the E-Rate Modernization of 2014, our library system applied for equipment to update our WiFi system and make it more robust and increase the speed for sending and receiving information. We could not have done this update without the funds from Priority 2 services.

The people of Crawford County rely on the library system to provide fast and reliable WiFi services at each of our branches. As residents purchase more tablets, laptops, smart phones and other devices we have to upgrade to keep up with the demand for service. We provide this service 24 hours a day 365 days per year. It is not unusual to drive by one of our libraries at night and see someone parked using our WiFi. Our libraries also use WiFi for coding classes and other programming.

The system is now building a new branch library and remodeling another one to make it larger. With the commitment of the FCC to insure a library budget of \$2.30 per square foot, we can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan a system for new construction. A more flexible application schedule would be greatly appreciated.

Please maintain secure funding the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.