

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor’s Analysis

Council Bill No. 57-2024

Introduced: October 7, 2024

Auditor: Brenda Cachuela

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation is an estimated cost savings totaling \$93,600 should the County enter into the proposed multi-year agreement.

Our Office reviewed the vendor quotation in Exhibit B of the legislation to confirm that the anticipated costs and related savings of the proposed agreement are accurately reflected in the legislation and the Administration’s testimony, as applicable.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to approve a three-year agreement between the County and Hurricane Electric, LLC, for high-bandwidth internet services to support the County, the Howard County Public School System, and the County’s Public Safety System, as well as providing complimentary wi-fi services to County residents at various locations.

Other Comments:

The Department of Technology and Communication Services confirmed that contract costs will be accounted for using Broadband Funds and that the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget includes the appropriation of funds to pay for this contract’s expenses. Our financial records indicate that as of October 16, 2024, unobligated FY 2025 Broadband funds include the following:

- Non-County Broadband Initiative Fund \$1,020,565
- County Government Broadband Initiative Fund \$537,658
- Private Sector Broadband Initiative Fund \$486,695