BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In re: Commission approval of Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.'s fiscal year 2021/2022 proposed budget. | DOCKET NO. 20210050-TP  ORDER NO. PSC-2021-0235-PAA-TP  ISSUED: June 29, 2021 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

GARY F. CLARK, Chairman

ART GRAHAM

ANDREW GILES FAY

MIKE LA ROSA

GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER APPROVING

FLORIDA TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY, INC.’S

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

**Background**

The Telecommunications Access System Act of 1991 (TASA) established a statewide telecommunications relay system. Section 427.704(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), provides that the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) is to establish, implement, promote, and oversee the administration of the statewide telecommunications access system to provide access to telecommunications relay services by persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. TASA provides for the purchase and distribution of specialized telecommunications devices as defined in Section 427.703(11), F.S. As defined by Section 427.703(16), F.S., this system provides telecommunications service for deaf or hard of hearing persons that is functionally equivalent to the service provided to hearing persons.

The telecommunications access system provides deaf or hard of hearing persons access to basic telecommunications services by using a specialized Communications Assistant that relays information between the deaf or hard of hearing person and the other party to the call. The primary function of the telecommunications access system is accomplished by the deaf or hard of hearing person using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). The person using the TDD types a message to the Communications Assistant who in turn voices the message to the other party or types the message to a Captioned Telephone which displays real-time captions of the conversation.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI), a non-profit corporation formed by the local exchange telephone companies, was selected by this Commission to serve as the telecommunications access system administrator. FTRI is primarily responsible for the purchase and distribution of specialized telecommunications equipment. As part of this process, FTRI contracts with other organizations to distribute equipment and provide customer training on the proper use of the equipment and the relay service. FTRI also conducts marketing to raise awareness of available specialized equipment and related relay service. Relay services are paid for by FTRI as part of its responsibilities.

FTRI, as the TASA Administrator, is funded through the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) surcharge. This surcharge was capped by the Florida Legislature at a maximum of $0.25 per landline access line per month. The Florida Legislature also limited collection of the surcharge to only the first 25 lines of each account. Only local exchange telecommunications companies are required to collect and remit this surcharge to FTRI. The initial TRS surcharge was set at $0.05 per access line per month.[[1]](#footnote-1) Since then, we have changed the surcharge to meet FTRI’s budgetary needs. The monthly surcharge is currently $0.10 per access line.

As part of our oversight responsibilities for the telecommunications access system, we review and approve a budget submitted by FTRI on an annual basis. Attachment A to this order is FTRI’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022, which was approved by its Board of Directors. FTRI also compared its proposed budget to the Commission-approved budget, as well as the estimated revenue and expenses, for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. FTRI’s estimated revenue and expenses were based on actual data from the first two quarters and estimated data for the third and fourth quarters.

We sent data requests to FTRI on a number of issues included in its Fiscal Year 2020/2021 estimate of expenses and its proposed Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget. FTRI’s responses to our data requests are included in the docket file. On April 16, 2021, FTRI filed third quarter financial information. With this updated information, we estimated expenses for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. That estimate is reflected in Attachment B to this order.

By this order we address FTRI’s proposed budget and the TRS surcharge for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The TRS surcharge is the only rate this Commission establishes for telecommunications companies. We have jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Chapter 427, F.S.

**Review and Decision**

1. Traditional Telecommunications Relay Service

The traditional TRS cost to FTRI as approved in Sprint Communications Company, L.P.’s (Sprint) contract is currently $1.35 per session minute. Sprint’s projections indicate that traditional minutes will decrease by 19 percent during Fiscal Year 2021/2022 from the current fiscal year. Traditional relay users are transitioning to the following services:

* Internet Protocol (IP) Relay[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Video Relay Service (VRS)[[3]](#footnote-3)
* IP Captioned Telephone Service[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Internet Protocol Speech-to-Speech (STS) Service[[5]](#footnote-5)
* Wireless Service[[6]](#footnote-6)

2. CapTel Service

The CapTel cost to FTRI as approved in the Sprint contract is currently $1.69 per session minute. CapTel service uses a specialized telephone that provides captioning of the incoming call for a deaf or hard of hearing person. Sprint’s projections show that CapTel minutes of use will decline by 41 percent from the current fiscal year during Fiscal Year 2021/2022. CapTel users are transitioning to Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service and wireless services.

3. Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. Budget

Attachment A reflects FTRI’s Fiscal Year 2021/2022 proposed budget, which was reviewed and adopted by FTRI’s Board of Directors prior to filing with this Commission. The FTRI proposed budget projects total operating revenue of $4,396,927 and total expenses of $4,450,727, representing a $53,800 shortfall. FTRI does not request transferring funds from the surplus account to offset the shortfall. FTRI asks that the TRS surcharge be maintained at $0.10 per access line for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

FTRI’s proposed budget represents a projected decrease in revenue of $509,911 (10 percent) from that included in the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget. This projected revenue decrease is attributed to an expected six percent decrease from the current fiscal year in access lines that are assessed the TRS surcharge.

FTRI’s proposed budget also includes a decrease in expenses of $621,322 (12.25 percent) from the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget. The most significant decline in FTRI’s proposed budget expense ($607,207) relates to an expected decline in minutes of use.

Sprint’s estimated Fiscal Year 2021/2022 traditional TRS minutes of use are 890,468, at a rate of $1.35 per minute, for the TRS related expense of $1,202,132. Sprint’s estimated CapTel minutes of use are 263,681, at a rate of $1.69 per minute, for the CapTel related expense of $445,621. The total estimated expense for TRS and CapTel for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 is $1,647,753. For comparison, the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget reflected traditional TRS minutes of 1,105,917 and CapTel minutes of 450,871. The total expense for TRS and CapTel for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was $2,254,960.

Based upon current industry trends, FTRI estimates that access lines will decrease at the rate of approximately six percent from the current fiscal year as more consumers transition from landline phones. Holding the TRS surcharge constant, a decrease in access lines results in a decrease in revenues to support FTRI’s activities.

We developed an estimate of FTRI’s expenses for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. This data is presented in Attachment B. We used actual data from the first three quarters of the fiscal year, and took an average of those three quarters to estimate the fourth. Our estimates were then used as one element in evaluating FTRI’s proposed budget. Attachment B also includes FTRI’s budgeted information for comparison purposes. We reviewed past Commission-approved FTRI budgets to identify and evaluate ongoing cost reduction measures.

We note that Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was out of the norm due to the COVID-19 pandemic. FTRI experienced significant reductions in equipment distributed, consumer inquiries, and related expense, which it attributes to the pandemic. As a result, FTRI’s support for its proposed Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget request is based largely on pre-pandemic levels instead of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 estimates. Taking into consideration the challenges related to the pandemic, we support FTRI’s approach of focusing on pre-pandemic budget levels. We reiterate that our expense estimates for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, discussed above, are based on historical data impacted by COVID-19. We review selected items from FTRI’s proposed budget expense by category below.

*A. Category I – Relay Services*

Category I captures expenses for traditional TRS and CapTel service currently provided by Sprint. The proposed budget recognizes a $607,207 expense reduction from the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget, primarily due to declining minutes and service cost associated with TRS and CapTel service.

The relay service expenses are based on the minutes of use as projected by Sprint and relay service contract rates. Sprint’s historical projections have proven to be reasonable and it has multi-state experience with such projections. We find that the estimates for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 are reasonable and shall be used for budgetary purposes. However, we note that the current relay service contract, and the current contract rates, will expire on February 28, 2022. We have issued a request for proposals to provide relay services beginning March 1, 2022, and will be considering a new relay service contract that may have rates that are different from the current contract.[[7]](#footnote-7)

*B. Category II – Equipment & Repairs*

Category II expenses reflect the purchase of equipment to be distributed to clients and the repairs that FTRI must make to keep the equipment in working order. FTRI used contract pricing for equipment multiplied by the number of units it plans to order over the course of the year. These contracts for equipment between FTRI and equipment vendors are separate from the contract for relay service approved by this Commission. FTRI’s proposed budget represents no change in expense from the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget.

FTRI’s Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget for equipment and repairs was $773,235. FTRI’s estimated 2020/2021 expenses are $452,158. Our estimated expense is $437,740, representing a difference of $14,418.

In its budget filing, FTRI explained that due to the impact of recommended COVID-19 guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FTRI experienced a significant change in the number of clients served and equipment distributed during Fiscal Year 2020/2021. As a result, FTRI budgeted for equipment and repairs for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 at the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget level, rather than the actual pandemic-affected level. FTRI believes the distribution of vaccine and new CDC guidelines may be sufficient for services to return to previous levels.

We approve FTRI’s budgeted amount for equipment and repairs and encourage FTRI to increase efforts and develop more creative ways to inform consumers about the program to increase equipment distributed.

*C. Category III – Equipment Distribution & Training*

Category III reflects the cost of distributing equipment throughout the state and the training of consumers in the use of that equipment. FTRI’s proposed budget reflects a slight decrease in expense from the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget.

Expenses related to Regional Distribution Centers (RDCs) are the largest component of Category III expenses. FTRI’s proposed budget for RDCs is $531,618, which is $4,029 lower than the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget. We note that FTRI’s proposed budget exceeds FTRI’s Fiscal Year 2020/2021 estimated expenditures by $369,806. Consistent with its explanation for Category II Equipment & Repairs, FTRI explains that the impact of COVID-19 and related CDC guidelines resulted in expenses significantly lower than the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Commission-approved budget. FTRI also anticipates equipment distribution to resume to pre-COVID-19 levels.

In support of its Fiscal Year 2020/2021 proposed budget, FTRI indicated that it intended to “expand the quantity of [RDCs] while working with the existing RDCs to evaluate and implement a business model that enables them to provide FTRI services at break-even.” We did not approve FTRI’s proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 RDC expense of $664,128. However, in consideration of FTRI’s intent to increase the number of RDCs, and recognizing the importance of adequately funding equipment distribution channels, we approved continued funding at FTRI’s estimated 2019/2020 expense level of $535,647.

As part of last year’s budget request, FTRI indicated that the fee per service structure was not financially performing at a break-even point for the RDCs. FTRI contracts with the non-profit RDCs to perform equipment distribution and training throughout Florida. The amount of funds for FTRI’s contracts with RDCs varies based on the number of clients an RDC assists. More funds are provided for connecting a new client, while fewer funds are provided to assist existing clients in the system.

At that time, we determined that FTRI did not present sufficient cost detail regarding the compensation to RDCs and their associated costs and concluded that additional information was needed to confirm the appropriate reimbursement rate FTRI pays RDCs. We asked FTRI to provide a financial break-even analysis related to the RDC’s fee structure and present the results to us with FTRI’s Fiscal Year 2021/2022 proposed budget filing. However, the requested analysis was not included with FTRI’s proposed budget filing.

In response to our data request regarding the break-even analysis, FTRI stated that only three of the twenty-three RDCs responded. FTRI explained that it does not believe the information received is sufficient to provide a meaningful analysis. FTRI further responded that the impact of the pandemic has made it difficult to determine the RDC break-even point. FTRI requested a postponement of the analysis until a more normal business environment returns.

We understand that the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 break-even analysis was adversely impacted by the pandemic. Considering the continued decline in the amount of equipment distributed and client inquiries, we find that it is critical for FTRI to renew its effort to evaluate the RDC model. Therefore, FTRI is hereby ordered to submit the RDC break-even analysis with its Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget filing. Further, FTRI shall provide a status update on this analysis to our staff and the TASA Advisory Committee at the October 2021 TASA Advisory Committee meeting. Upon review, we find that FTRI’s proposed budget for Category III expense is reasonable.

*D. Category IV – Outreach*

Outreach efforts are designed to promote FTRI’s equipment distribution services and to raise awareness about Florida relay service. FTRI’s proposed Fiscal Year 2021/2022 outreach budget remains unchanged from the Commission-approved outreach budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

FTRI employs various forms of communication in its outreach strategy. FTRI plans to continue advertising in newspapers using free-standing insert ads (flyers) in markets where such ads continue to be effective. However, FTRI acknowledges that it has witnessed rapid changes in the newspaper industry. In response, FTRI will use other print tools such as direct mail post cards and coupon book advertisements. FTRI also plans to continue expanding its digital marketing campaign, including increased use of banner ads on websites, as well as targeted email and social media campaigns.

We have previously encouraged FTRI to research and consider more technologically advanced and cost-effective forms of outreach in addition to traditional newspapers. Most recently, during our February 16, 2021 Internal Affairs meeting, we discussed FTRI exploring making improvements to its website. Specifically, we encouraged FTRI to consider the addition of an online chat function to help with customer inquiries, as well as the creation of an online consumer portal similar to the one used by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Through such a portal consumers could enter personal qualifying information, be automatically advised of available equipment, and directed to the appropriate RDC for service.

In consultation with the TASA Advisory Committee, FTRI shall explore the development of such online mechanisms in an effort to help qualifying customers obtain needed services. FTRI shall provide a status update on this effort to our staff and the TASA Advisory Committee at the October 2021 TASA Advisory Committee meeting. Upon review, we find that FTRI’s proposed budget for Category IV expense is reasonable.

*E. Category V – General & Administrative*

Category V reflects the expenses associated with FTRI’s operations, such as office and furnishings, employee compensation, contracted services (auditors, attorney and computer consultants), computers, and other operating expenses. FTRI is proposing $931,141, which represents a $10,086 decrease in Category V expense for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. Upon review, we find that s FTRI’s Category V expenses are reasonable.

4. Conclusion

As described more fully in the body of this order, we approve FTRI’s proposed budget expenses of $4,450,727 for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. All local exchange companies shall continue billing the $0.10 TRS surcharge for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. FTRI shall conduct a financial break-even analysis of the Regional Distribution Center fee structure and present the results to this Commission with FTRI’s Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget filing.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.'s proposed budget expenses of $4,450,727 for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 are hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that all local exchange companies to continue billing the $0.10 TRS surcharge for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. It is further

ORDERED that Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. shall conduct a financial break-even analysis of the Regional Distribution Center fee structure and present the results to this Commission with its Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget filing. It is further

ORDERED that if no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of this order, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 29th day of June, 2021.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | /s/ Adam J. Teitzman |
|  | ADAM J. TEITZMAN  Commission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 413‑6770

www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

CWM

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on July 20, 2021.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

**Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.**

**Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget @ .10 cents surcharge**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | Estimated to Budget | Budget to Budget |
|  | 2020/2021 | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | VARIANCE | VARIANCE |
|  | APPROVED | ESTIMATED |  | 2020/2021 | 2020/2021 |
|  | BUDGET | REV & EXPEND | BUDGET | 2021/2022 | 2021/2022 |
| OPERATING REVENUE  1 Surcharges | 4,792,249 | 4,653,281 | 4,374,084 | (279,197) | (418,165) |
| 2 Interest Income | 114,589 | 20,604 | 22,843 | 2,239 | (91,746) |
| TOTAL OPERATING REV | 4,906,838 | 4,673,885 | 4,396,927 | (276,958) | (509,911) |
| OTHER REVENUE/FUNDS  3 Surplus Account | 17,222,460 | 17,800,593 | 18,286,093 | 485,500 | 1,063,633 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 22,129,298 | 22,474,478 | 22,683,020 | 208,542 | 553,722 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES |  |  |  |  |  |

CATEGORY I - RELAY SERVICES

4 DPR Provider 2,254,960 2,254,960 1,647,753 (607,207) (607,207)

SUBTOTAL-CATEGORY I 2,254,960 2,254,960 1,647,753 (607,207) (607,207)

CATEGORY II - EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 TTY/TDD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 CapTel Phone Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 VCP Hearing Impaired | 577,203 | 278,296 | 577,203 | 298,907 | 0 |
| 8 VCP Speech Impaired | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 TeliTalk Speech Aid | 32,760 | 32,250 | 32,760 | 510 | 0 |
| 10 In-Line Amplifier | 34,950 | 103,170 | 34,950 | (68,220) | 0 |
| 11 ARS Signaling Equip | 2,592 | 0 | 2,592 | 2,592 | 0 |
| 12 VRS Signaling Equip | 16,400 | 8,200 | 16,400 | 8,200 | 0 |
| 13 Accessories & Supplies | 518 | 50 | 518 | 468 | 0 |
| 14 Telecomm Equip Repair | 108,812 | 30,192 | 108,812 | 78,620 | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL-CATEGORY II | 773,235 | 452,158 | 773,235 | 321,077 | 0 |

CATEGORY III - EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION & TRAINING

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 Freight-Telecomm Equip | 30,862 | 20,595 | 30,862 | 10,267 | 0 |
| 16 Regional Distr Centers | 535,647 | 161,812 | 531,618 | 369,806 | (4,029) |
| 17 Training Expense | 468 | 468 | 468 | 0 | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL-CATEGORY III | 566,977 | 182,875 | 562,948 | 380,073 | (4,029) |

**Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.**

**Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget @ .10 cents surcharge**

Estimated to Budget Budget to Budget

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2020/2021 | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | VARIANCE | VARIANCE |
| APPROVED | ESTIMATED |  | 2020/2021 | 2020/2021 |
| BUDGET | REV & EXPEND | BUDGET | 2021/2022 | 2021/2022 |

CATEGORY IV - OUTREACH

18 Outreach Expense 535,650 433,143 535,650 102,507 0

SUBTOTAL-CATEGORY IV 535,650 433,143 535,650 102,507 0

CATEGORY V - GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19 Advertising | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 20 Accounting/Auditing | 20,823 | 21,146 | 21,624 | 478 | 801 | |
| 21 Legal | 28,776 | 11,022 | 12,281 | 1,259 | (16,495) | |
| 22 Computer Consultation | 5,020 | 6,431 | 5,460 | (971) | 440 | |
| 23 Dues & Subscriptions | 2,482 | 1,230 | 1,380 | 150 | (1,102) | |
| 24 Office Equipment Purchase | 7,131 | 7,730 | 7,711 | (19) | 580 | |
| 25 Office Equipment Lease | 1,751 | 1,778 | 1,778 | 0 | 27 | |
| 26 Insurance-Hlth/Life/Dsblty | 181,893 | 149,461 | 172,997 | 23,536 | (8,896) | |
| 27 Insurance-Other | 9,741 | 10,253 | 9,741 | (512) | 0 | |
| 28 Office Expense | 12,248 | 10,466 | 10,477 | 11 | (1,771) | |
| 29 Postage | 4,139 | 3,025 | 3,025 | 0 | (1,114) | |
| 30 Printing | 1,323 | 704 | 1,177 | 473 | (146) | |
| 31 Rent | 91,715 | 91,304 | 91,304 | 0 | (411) | |
| 32 Utilities | 5,408 | 4,971 | 4,945 | (26) | (463) | |
| 33 Retirement | 77,030 | 67,828 | 78,849 | 11,021 | 1,819 | |
| 34 Employee Compensation | 431,510 | 422,417 | 443,590 | 21,173 | 12,080 | |
| 35 Taxes - Payroll | 31,979 | 30,840 | 30,977 | 137 | (1,002) | |
| 36 Taxes - Unemplmt Comp | 56 | 2,957 | 2,957 | 0 | 2,901 | |
| 37 Taxes - Licenses | 61 | 61 | 61 | 0 | 0 | |
| 38 Telephone | 17,030 | 16,997 | 19,940 | 2,943 | 2,910 | |
| 39 Travel & Business | 8,111 | 1,000 | 8,111 | 7,111 | 0 | |
| 40 Equipment Maint. | 855 | 598 | 611 | 13 | (244) | |
| 41 Employee Training/Dev | 2,145 | 3,030 | 2,145 | (885) | 0 | |
| SUBTOTAL-CATEGORY V | 941,227 | 865,249 | 931,141 | 65,892 | (10,086) |  |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 5,072,049 | 4,188,385 | 4,450,727 | 262,342 | (621,322) |  |
| REVENUE LESS EXPENSES | 17,057,249 | 18,286,093 | 18,232,293 | (53,800) | 1,175,044 |  |

**BUDGET COMPARISON**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***REVENUE*** | 2020/2021  APPROVED BUDGET | 2020/2021  FTRI ESTIMATED | 2020/2021  COMM. ESTIMATED | 2021/2022  FTRI PROPOSED BUDGET |
| Surcharge | 4,792,249 | 4,653,281 | 4,653,281 | 4,374,084 |
| Interest | 114,589 | 20,604 | 20,604 | 22,843 |
| **TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE** | 4,906,838 | 4,673,885 | 4,673,885 | 4,396,927 |
| Surplus Account | 17,222,460 | 17,800,593 | 17,800,593 | 18,286,093 |
| **TOTAL REVENUE** | 22,129,298 | 22,474,478 | 22,474,478 | 22,683,020 |

***OPERATING EXPENSES***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY I - RELAY SERVICES** | |  |  |  |
| DPR Provider | 2,254,960 | 2,254,960 | 2,254,960 | 1,647,753 |
| **SUBTOTAL CATEGORY I** | 2,254,960 | 2,254,960 | 2,254,960 | 1,647,753 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY II - EQUIPMENT & REPAIRS** | |  |  |  |
| TDD Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Large Print TDD | - | - | - | - |
| VCO/HCO-TDD | - | - | - | - |
| VCO-Telephone | - | - | - | - |
| Dual Sensory Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| CapTel Phone Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| VCP Hearing Impaired | 577,203 | 278,296 | 273,557 | 577,203 |
| VCP Speech Impaired | - | - | - | - |
| TeliTalk Speech Aid | 32,760 | 32,250 | 30,100 | 32,760 |
| Jupiter Speaker Phone (InferaRed/Ha | - | - | - | - |
| In Line Amplifier | 34,950 | 103,170 | 95,509 | 34,950 |
| ARS-Signaling Equipment | 2,592 | - | - | 2,592 |
| VRS-Signaling Equipment | 16,400 | 8,200 | 3,584 | 16,400 |
| Equipment Accessories/Supplies | 518 | 50 | 67 | 518 |
| Telecom Equipment Repair | 108,812 | 30,192 | 34,923 | 108,812 |
| **SUBTOTAL CAT II** | 773,235 | 452,158 | 437,740 | 773,235 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY III - EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION & TRAINING** | | | |  |
| Freight - Telecomm Equipment | 30,862 | 20,595 | 20,443 | 30,862 |
| Regional Distribution Centers | 535,647 | 161,812 | 153,495 | 531,618 |
| Workshop Expense | - | - | - | - |
| Training Expense for RDCs | 468 | 468 | 624 | 468 |
| **SUBTOTAL CAT III** | 566,977 | 182,875 | 174,561 | 562,948 |

**BUDGET COMPARISON**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2020/2021  APPROVED BUDGET | 2020/2021  FTRI ESTIMATED | 2020/2021  COMM.  ESTIMATED | 2021/2022  FTRI PROPOSED BUDGET |
| Outreach Expense | 535,650 | 433,143 | 422,917 | 535,650 |
| **SUBTOTAL CAT IV** | 535,650 | 433,143 | 422,917 | 535,650 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY V - GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE** | | | | |
| Advertising | - | - | - | - |
| Accounting/Audit | 20,823 | 21,146 | 26,471 | 21,624 |
| Legal | 28,776 | 11,022 | 14,183 | 12,281 |
| Consultation-Computer | 5,020 | 6,431 | 5,789 | 5,460 |
| Dues/Subscriptions | 2,482 | 1,230 | 1,513 | 1,380 |
| Office Furniture | - | - | - | - |
| Office Equipment Purchase | 7,131 | 7,730 | 4,644 | 7,711 |
| Office Equipment Lease | 1,751 | 1,778 | 1,820 | 1,778 |
| Leasehold Improvements | - | - | - | - |
| Insurance -Health/Life/Disability | 181,893 | 149,461 | 138,799 | 172,997 |
| Insurance-Other | 9,741 | 10,253 | 10,179 | 9,741 |
| Office Expense | 12,248 | 10,466 | 8,783 | 10,477 |
| Postage | 4,139 | 3,025 | 647 | 3,025 |
| Printing | 1,323 | 704 | - | 1,177 |
| Rent | 91,715 | 91,304 | 91,724 | 91,304 |
| Utilities | 5,408 | 4,971 | 4,261 | 4,945 |
| Retirement | 77,030 | 67,828 | 57,112 | 78,849 |
| Employee Compensation | 431,510 | 422,417 | 390,992 | 443,590 |
| Temporary Employment | - | - | - | - |
| Taxes – Payroll | 31,979 | 30,840 | 30,947 | 30,977 |
| Taxes - Unemployment Comp | 56 | 2,957 | 1,520 | 2,957 |
| Taxes – Licenses | 61 | 61 | 81 | 61 |
| Telephone | 17,030 | 16,997 | 18,364 | 19,940 |
| Travel & Business Expense | 8,111 | 1,000 | - | 8,111 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 855 | 598 | 601 | 611 |
| Employee Training | 2,145 | 3,030 | 2,493 | 2,145 |
| Meeting Expense | - | - | - | - |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - |
| **SUBTOTAL CAT V** | 941,227 | 865,249 | 810,923 | 931,141 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 5,072,049 | 4,188,385 | 4,101,101 | 4,450,727 |
| REVENUES LESS EXPENSES | (165,211) | 485,500 | 572,784 | (53,800) |

1. Order No. 24581, issued May 24, 1991, Docket No. 910496-TP. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IP Relay allows people who have difficulty hearing or speaking to communicate using a computer and the Internet, rather than a Text Telephone (TTY) and a telephone line. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. VRS enables persons with hearing disabilities who use American Sign Language to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment, rather than through typed text. Video equipment links the VRS user with a TRS operator so that the VRS user and the operator can see and communicate by signed conversation. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. IP captioned telephone service allows users to simultaneously listen and read the text of what the other party in a telephone conversation has said, where the connection carrying the captions between the service and the user is via an IP addressed and routed link. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. STS service utilizes a specially trained Communications Assistant who understands the speech patterns of persons with speech disabilities and can repeat the words spoken by such an individual to the other party to the call. IP STS uses the Internet, rather than the public switched telephone network, to connect the consumer to the relay provider. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Wireless services offer applications such as text, instant messaging, and FaceTime. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Docket No. 20210049-TP. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)