



NEWTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
A VOIP TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

**Proposals accepted until
11:00 a.m. (Local Time) Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

RFP posted online at
voip@newtonlibraries.org

The Newton County Library System (“Library”) serves Newton County, a community of approx. 116,000 residents located in East Georgia.

The Library System is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the voice service and supply, installation, configuration, and training of a high-quality, integrated Voice over Internet Protocol (“VoIP”), with voice messaging included, which serves the needs of the Library.

The VoIP or hybrid telephone solution should:

- Offer reliable mainstream products with strong manufacturer commitment and vendor support.
- Be easy to use and maintain.
- Meet industry standards.
- Be cost-effective.
- Utilize a non-specific service provider.
- Can be Cloud Based/Hosted.

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR BID SUBMISSION

Submission of Proposal

Proposals must be submitted in the format of each one (1) electronic and one (1) print copy.

Proposals must be received by the Library no later than 11:00am (Local Time), Wednesday January 11, 2023.

Submission of Bid and related questions should be addressed to the following Library Contact:

Newton County Library System
ATTN: Lace Keaton
7116 Floyd Street
Covington, GA 30014
Subject: “NCLS Telephone System”
Email: voip@newtonlibraries.org

Sealed and electronic bid proposals will be opened on January 11, 2023 at 11:00 am at the Newton County Library Main branch. All hand-delivered or mailed bids must be mailed to 7116 Floyd Street, Covington, GA 30014.

Intent to Respond

Bidders are required to submit an Intent to Respond Form (**ATTACHMENT A**) by the end of December 16, 2022. The Intent to Respond Form can be submitted via email or mail to the Library Contact as listed above.

RFP Modification

The Library reserves the right, without penalty, to add, remove, modify, or otherwise update the RFP, in any way the Library sees fit. Modification of RFP, if any, will be distributed to participating vendors who have submitted an Intent to Respond form by the end of December 16, 2022.

Timeline -

November 15, 2022	RFP announcement on the Library website
December 16, 2022	Intent to Respond due
	Questions regarding RFP due
January 11, 2023 at 11:00am	RFP response due at the Library
January 11 – 25, 2023	Evaluation of all proposals
January 11 – 25, 2023	Potential interviews of finalists Selection of a qualified proposal

February 2, 2023	A recommendation made to the Library Board for approval if needed
February 17, 2023	Contract signing and order placing (Projected Date)
June 1 2023 - June 30 2023	Implementation (Projected Date)

This is an estimated timeline and the Library reserves the right to make changes to this schedule at any time.

Acceptance of RFP Terms

A proposal submitted in response to this RFP shall constitute a binding offer. The proposer shall identify, clearly and thoroughly, any variation between its offer and this RFP. Failure to do so shall be deemed a waiver of any rights to subsequently modify the terms of performance. The proposer’s authorized representative may withdraw proposals only by written request received before the proposal due date.

Proposal Validity Period

Each proposal shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days from the proposal due date.

Ownership of Documents

Any reports, studies, conclusions, and summaries prepared by the Proposer shall become the property of the Library.

On-Site Inspections/Visits

Should a vendor wish an on-site inspection before bidding, all visits must be prearranged by email at voip@newtonlibraries.org . Vendors should not at any time walk in and ask for a tour or inspection without prior approval.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Responsiveness of the proposal to the scope of services requested. Commitment to satisfying the Library’s needs and requirements as specified in this RFP.
- Quality of the product and service.
- Three-to-five year total cost.
- Relevant industry experience and client references.
- Clear one number pricing of initial installation, configuring, and annual and monthly recurring costs fees.
- Historical business relations.
- The clarity and cognizance of the bid presented.

Award of Contract

The Library will accept the highest criteria based responsible bid meeting bid requirements and specifications or may reject one or all bids without disclosure of a reason.

The Library reserves the right to make an award or a partial award.

The Library also reserves the right to reject any and all submitted proposals without penalty.

Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations

The Contractor will comply with all laws and regulations on taxes and licenses.

Contractors will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, codes, standards, and ordinances in force during the term of the Contract.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSAL CONTENT AND FORMAT

To provide a degree of consistency in the review of the written proposals, Proposers are required to prepare their proposals in the format described below:

Intent to Respond Form

Vendors are required to submit an Intent to Respond Form (**ATTACHMENT A**) by December 16, 2022.

Proposal Response Form

An individual having full authority to execute the proposal and to execute any resulting contract for services ("authorized representative") must complete and submit the attached Proposal Response Form (**ATTACHMENT B**) as well the E-Verify Form (**ATTACHMENT D**).

Summary of the Product Recommended

Describe the product recommended, including hardware, software, major features, and services available regarding the phone system and phones.

Please provide selected product brochures, pictures of the phones, quick references and user guides, etc.

System Design and Implementation

Describe your system design and implementation process in detail.

Experience, Expertise, and Capabilities of the Manufacturer and Vendor

Give a background of the manufacturers and vendor's experience and qualifications. This should include a brief history, the date founded, ownership, subsidiary relationships, etc. Also list the types of services the vendor is qualified to perform.

Use of Subcontractors

The selected Proposer shall be solely responsible for all services as required by the RFP. Subcontractors, if any, will be the responsibility of the Proposer and the role of subcontractors must be clearly identified in the proposal. The Library may factor this information into the evaluation of the service approach of the Proposer. The use of a subcontractor(s) does not relieve the selected Proposer of liability under the contract.

Service Scope and Approach

Submit a clear and detailed response to accomplish the scope of services that reflects your understanding of the Library's requirements as described in this RFP.

Proposers must complete and submit the attached Scope of Services Checklist (**ATTACHMENT C**).

Cost/Charges

The proposal must contain a fee schedule that includes, but is not limited to, line items for equipment, licenses, warranties, installation, and training.

The proposal also must include a quote on one-year, three-year, and five-year total cost, with the charges for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th year listed separately for all billing.

All costs associated with the proposal must be included in the quote submitted. The Library relies on the Proposer to assure that all charges to complete the scope of work are submitted in the proposal and that there are no hidden costs or charges that will be incurred by the Library.

No additional fee will be paid for a reasonable number of changes or minor additions to the scope of work during the implementation process.

No payments will be made for any other services unless written authorization is received from the Library prior to the commencement of any such work.

Please attach a Standard Purchase Agreement from your company.

Warranty, Service, and Support

Submit information about the warranties available for any equipment and services provided by the manufacturer and/or the vendor. List terms for hardware replacement and software upgrades. Clearly enumerate any charges associated with any service that will be billed to the Library by branch

Please attach a Standard Maintenance Agreement from your company.

References

Submit information regarding a minimum of two (2) comparable projects that the vendor has completed as the prime contractor within the last three (3) years. The projects shall indicate the start and completion dates, services and equipment provided, project costs, contract term, and warranty. Please provide contact information for each reference.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Newton County Library System is seeking proposals for a VoIP Telephone System, with voice messaging included. The System will have a total of 20 desk phones to start with, 3 fire/security lines, 2 conference phones, and 3 fax lines.

A. The Library's Infrastructure and Phone Needs

Branch Locations and Current Phone System

Newton County Library System Branch Locations					
Branch Library Name	Address	City	ST	Zip	Telephone
Covington Branch Library (Headquarters)	7116 Floyd St NE	Covington	GA	30014	770-787-3231
Porter Memorial Branch Library	6191 Hwy 212	Covington	GA	30016	678-729-1388

Current Phone System By Location					
Library Branch	Phones / Handsets	Fire/Security - Analog	Conference Phone	Fax - Analog	Auto Attendant Numbers
Covington	13	1	1 (Analog)	2	1
Porter	7	2	1 (VOIP)	1	1

External Connection

The Library phones are currently using a Nortel PBX/PRI routed through our main library location: 7116 Floyd Street NE, Covington, GA 30014. The entire system is using AT&T analog lines for all external calls.

The Library is equipped with the following INTERNET connections:

Covington Branch - Spectrum Cable Internet 600mbs down / 35mbs up

Porter Branch - Comcast Cable Internet 200mbs down / 20 up

Should the vendor require the Library to be compliant with a certain network requirement, please specify. Please include a cost estimate, whenever possible.

Internal Connection

All branches use Barracuda Security Appliance and Dell or Aruba switches (Layer 3, POE & Gigabit speed).

Additionally, the main downtown branch (Covington) has two fax and one analog security/fire system line that will be required. The Porter branch has one fax and two analog security/fire systems lines.

The Covington branch uses cat 3 wiring for current phones but the computer connections (next to all the phone ports) use cat 5e wiring. If the computer port is used, QoS and VLANs will need to be configured to guarantee quality for the phone and computer connections.

The Porter branch uses cat 6 cables with direct runs to the switches.

Should the vendor require the Library to be compliant with any additional requirement(s), please specify.

Phone System Needs

The Library needs to be able to replace the phone system July 1, 2023 with a complete VoIP that ties all our

branches into one system as well as incorporate any required analog lines.

Phone Needs

The Library is looking to have 20 new IP phones. The Library must be allowed to add additional phones within the next five years.

B. Required Phone System and Phone Features

Existing Phone Numbers

The solution must be able keep the Library's existing primary telephone phone numbers:

Covington 770-787-3231

Porter Memorial 678-729-1388

Other existing numbers should be kept including 48 DIDs/Numbers, of which 28 are currently used.

Call Routing

The solution must be capable of routing inbound, outbound, and internal calls of all three branches.

A call rings at a phone. After 4-6 rings, an unanswered call forwards to the corresponding voice mailbox, or route to another extension. The solution must require Library staff to press "9" before calling an external phone number.

Capacity of Simultaneous Phone Conversations

The solution must allow a minimum of twenty (20) simultaneous internal phone conversations and ten (10) simultaneous external phone conversations system wide.

Voice Quality

The solution must provide high quality voice with minimal latency.

Voice Menu

The solution must allow Library staff to design a simple and easy-to-use voice menu.

Automated Attendant

During business hours,

- Calls to the main phone number will be answered by an automated attendant. The automated attendant must allow a caller to press "0" for the operator.
- Calls to the remaining phone numbers will be answered by Library staff. When a call is not answered, the caller will be given the option to leave a voicemail if applicable.

After hours, calls to all listed phone numbers will be answered by an automated attendant. A caller will be given the option to leave a voice message if applicable.

The automated attendant must allow Library staff to pre-record multiple messages for different calendar dates, days of the week, and time of day announcements to support the Library's business and holiday schedule – with no requirement to "record over" standard greetings. The system must allow Library staff to remotely change and/or re-record these business and holiday greetings/messages.

Call Pickup

The solution must allow a user to pick up an external call, internal call, or a call on-hold. The solution must allow a user to pick up a call on-hold.

Group Pickup

The solution must allow multiple phones to be grouped together in no less than five different groups.

Call Transfer

The solution must allow a call to be transferred to another internal or branch extension.

Call Forward

The solution must allow a call to be auto-routed to another internal or branch extension.

Call On Hold

The solution must allow a call to be put on hold, and then be answered from the same or different internal extension.

Capability of Handling Two Lines on Any Individual Phone

The solution must allow any individual phone to handle two lines simultaneously. For example, while Library staff puts a call on hold on Line 1, he can use Line 2 to place another call to get more information for the caller waiting on Line 1.

Phone Display

The phone must display date, time, extension name, and extension number in idle state.

The phones must provide a visual display of most incoming call numbers/extensions, and activated features such as DND (Do Not Disturb), Call Forward.

Standard Phone Buttons

Transfer/Conference, Hold, Speaker, and Redial functions need to have their own designated buttons on all phones.

Programmable Phone Button

All phones must have a minimum of 8 -10 programmable buttons with designated features.

Phones will have 6 buttons programmed. Namely:

- External lines
- Programmed extension
- Page
- Voicemail Access
- DND
- Day and Night Mode

Distinctive Ringtone

The solution must allow Library staff to distinguish calls with different ringtones when more than one phone is located in the same area.

Volume Control

The solution must allow Library staff to adjust the volume level on individual phones.

Speakerphone

The solution must provide the speakerphone feature on all non-wireless phones.

Voicemail

The solution must support a minimum of 20 voicemail subscribers. The voicemail system should be able to provide unified messaging and integrate with Outlook, Google Application Suite, and Office 365 Exchange Online. The service should be able to automate open and closed greetings as well as holiday and other business greetings.

Please list voicemail recording time allowed for each occurrence.

Please list the total number of message minutes or total voicemail messages that can be stored in a user's voice mailbox.

The solution must have a light indicator on the phone to notify a user of a new message in the user's voice mailbox.

Each individual voice mailbox is password-protected.

The solution should also allow an end user to remotely check his voice mailbox via access code.

Voicemails can be forwarded to another internal voice mailbox, allowing the sender to record additional

comments if needed.

DID (Direct Inward Dialing)

The solution must allow external callers to dial directly to individual phone numbers without intervention by a live operator or automated attendant.

DND (Do Not Disturb)

The solution must allow Library staff to turn on/off the DND feature for any individual phone, as needed.

Internal Dialing

The solution must allow library staff to dial an extension on an internal phone to reach another internal line.

Caller ID

The solution must allow users to view the phone number and/or its associated staff name for all internal calls. The solution should also allow users to view the phone number of the caller regarding most inbound calls.

911 and E911 Compliance

The solution must support placing calls to 911 from any phone within any branch building.

The service must be E911 compliant. Dialing 911 from any branch phone should allow a 911 dispatcher to identify the location (floor/room/area) where the call originated.

The service should notify designated library system staff (via email and/or phone) of the phone extension and location from which the 911 call originated.

Unified Messaging

The solution must allow a voicemail message to be automatically converted into an audio file or speech to text file and sent to a user's email account. Please specify in what format the audio file will be (e.g., wav.) and what types of emails accounts are compatible (e.g., Gmail, Outlook).

Conference Call

The solution should allow a phone user (conference leader) to establish a Telephone Conference among three or more parties, with the conference leader included.

Music On-Hold

The solution is required to offer or support Music On-Hold. Professionally recorded messages are played over music to market the Library's services to a patron while he is put on hold.

Web-based Administration and Programming Capability

The solution must allow multiple, designated Library system staff to use a web interface for phone programming, management of account creation, deletion, and changes in settings.

The solution must allow multiple, designated Library system staff to record and manage the voice menu, business, and holiday greetings.

The solution must provide manuals and documentations for multiple, designated library system staff to be trained. There must be different assignable levels or granular access of abilities that can be assigned.

Statistics Reporting

The solution must allow multiple, designated Library system staff to view basic historic call reporting for phone extensions, hunt groups, mailboxes, etc.

Implementation

Vendors are required to plan the implementation in such a manner as to provide NO downtime during the branch library's operation hours.

Vendors are required to provide a summary of their implementation plan, with a timeline included from equipment ordering to system design/configuration to final cutover.

Maintenance Services and Technical Support

Vendors are required to offer maintenance services and technical support for a minimum of five (5) years.

Vendors are required to provide remote and on-site assistance when needed. During an emergency, remote and on-site assistance need to be available from vendors after regular business hours. Please list response time about technical support.

C. Preferred Phone and Phone/Voicemail System Features

Bi-directional Synchronization of Unified Messaging

It is preferred that the solution provides bi-directional synchronization of deletion and read/heard messages. A user only needs to listen/read/delete a message once, either from a phone or from an email account, with unified messaging turned on.

Rerouting Callers to a Pre-recorded Message Offsite

It is preferred that callers be automatically rerouted to a pre-recorded message offsite during any phone system downtime.

Built-in Redundancy for Minimal Downtime

It is preferred that the solution has built-in redundancy for reducing system downtime to the minimum.

Analog Device Support

If the system has built-in analog ports, please specify. We will have three (3) analog fire/security lines and three (3) fax machines integrated into the system.

Extension to Specified Number

It is strongly preferred that extensions are able to be routed to external phone numbers as part of either the call forwarding or replacing the voicemail after ringing.

Paging to Speakers

It is highly preferred to have the ability to page to prewired speaking systems available.

Types of System

We will be limited our scope to a cloud-based phone system or an onsite phone system.

ATTACHMENT A
Intent to Respond Form

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Position: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

The company named above intends to submit a proposal in response to this Telephone System RFP by 11:00 a.m. (Local Time), Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Signature of authorized representative:

Date:

Submit by email and mail to:
Newton County Library System
ATTN: Lace Keaton
7116 Floyd St NE
Covington, GA 30014
Subject: "NCLS Telephone System"
Email: voip@newtonlibraries.org

ATTACHMENT B
Proposal Response Form

DATE _____

Proposal of: _____, (herein after called Vendor), a
Corporation/Partnership doing business as
_____.

TO: Newton County Library System

The Proposer, in compliance with your Request for Proposal for the VoIP solution having examined the RFP and being familiar with all of the conditions surrounding the work, hereby agrees to perform the work required by the project, within the time set forth in the Proposal Submission Instructions, and at the price stated therein. These prices are to cover all expenses incurred in performing the work required by the contract documents, of which this proposal is a part.

Proposer acknowledges receipt of the following addenda in the event subsequently issued.

Proposer agrees to provide the VoIP system and services described in the RFP Scope of Services.

Submitted by authorized representative:

Firm

FEI

Signature

Typed Name & Title

Address

City, State, Zip Code

ATTACHMENT C

Scope of Services Checklist

Please complete the Scope of Services Checklist below.

	Scope of Services Checklist	Does Your Solution Meet the Library's Requirement or Preferences?		
		Yes	No	Additional Comments (if needed)
1.	Keeps the Library's existing phone numbers			
2.	Utilizes a PRI trunk			
3.	Utilizes SIP trunk			
4.	Routes inbound, outbound, and internal calls			
5.	Allows a minimum of 10 simultaneous phone conversations			
6.	Has high quality voice with minimal latency			
7.	Has simple, easy-to-use voice menu customizable by multiple, designated Library staff			
8.	Includes an automated attendant			
9.	Requires users to dial "9" to make an external call			
10.	Callers may press "0" to reach the operator and exit the automated attendant			
11.	During non-business hours, automated attendant allows callers to leave voice messages			
12.	Automated attendant includes a Dial by Type of Service directory			
13.	Automated attendant includes a Dial by Name directory			
14.	Automated attendant supports multiple pre-recorded messages			
15.	Automated attendant supports remote management by Library staff and by vendor			
16.	Users may pick up external, internal, and on hold calls from any internal extension			
17.	Multiple phones can be grouped together			
18.	Multiple extensions can be programmed onto the same physical phone, with voicemail included.			
19.	Call transfer to internal or branch extensions supported			
20.	Call forwarding to internal or branch extensions supported			
21.	Calls may be placed on hold and be picked up from the same or different extension			
22.	Extensions each have two lines, which may be active simultaneously.			
23.	Phone displays date, time, extension name, extension number, incoming call numbers/extensions, and activated features			
24.	All phones have Transfer/Conference, Hold, Speaker, and Redial buttons			
25.	All phones to have a minimum of 8 - 10 programmable buttons, matching configurations outlined in Required Phone Features			
26.	Phones are capable of multiple, distinctive, ringtones			
27.	All phones have individual volume control			
28.	All phones have speakerphones			
29.	Supports a minimum of 20 voicemail subscribers			
30.	Voicemail integrates with Google Application Suite, Outlook,			

	and/or Office 365 Exchange Online			
31.	Voicemail supports automated open, closed, holiday, and pre-recorded event greetings. Library staff is allowed to record ad hoc greetings for surprise closures – on site and remotely.			
32.	Different greetings can be scheduled to play on different calendar days and at different time of the day.			
33.	Phones have new voicemail light indicator			
34.	Individual voicemails are password protected			
35.	Voicemails can be forwarded to another internal voice mailbox, allowing the sender to record additional comments			
36.	Supports DID by external callers			
37.	Individual phones may be set to DND by staff			
38.	Library staff may dial a digit extension for internal/branch calls			
39.	Phones list Caller ID for all internal/Branch and most external calls			
40.	Is 911 and E911 compliant			
41.	Allows unified messaging			
42.	Allows conference calls of 3 or more parties			
43.	Accommodates existing analog fax machines			
44.	Supports Music On Hold.			
45.	Allows staff to use web interface for phone programming, management of account creation, deletion, and changes in settings			
46.	Allows Library staff to record and manage the voice menu, business, holiday, and ad hoc greetings.			
47.	Staff may view historic call reporting for phone extensions, hunt groups, mailboxes, etc.			
48.	Implementation will occur with no downtime during Library business hours.			
49.	Maintenance services and technical support for a minimum of 1, 3, or 5 years (based on contract length)			
50.	Bi-directional synchronization of deletion and read/heard messages regarding Unified Messaging			
51.	Calls are automatically rerouted to a pre-recorded message offsite during any phone system downtime			
52.	Solution has built-in redundancy for reducing system downtime			
53.	Specify the number of built-in analog ports, if any, to accommodate existing analog fax machines			
54.	Phones are non-proprietary and capable with other service providers			

ATTACHMENT D
E-Verify Program

Newton County Library System
S.A.V.E Program Affidavit

*Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program
Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).*

Affidavit

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm or corporation which is contracting with Newton County Library System, has registered and is participating in a federal work authorization program* (an electronic verification of work authorization program operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any equivalent federal work authorization program operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to verify information of newly hired employees, pursuant to the Immigration Reform And Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), in accordance with the deadlines established in the referenced statute.

**The applicable federal work authorization program as of the effective date of the statute is the E-Verify Program of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). To register for the E-Verify Program visit www.uscis.gov, your bid will not be accepted without this E-Verify Number.*

Company Name

By: Authorized Officer or Agent
[Contractor Name]

Date

Printed Name

Contractor's/Vendor's E-Verify #

Subscribed and sworn before me on this
the ____ day of _____, 20__

Notary Public
My commission expires:
