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Capital Requests for FY 2027 = \$3,000,000
FY 2028 = \$3,000,000

Overview: Iowa PBS must ensure its mission-critical, statewide broadcast system is updated to ATSC 3.0 - also known as NextGen TV:

- 1.) to prevent catastrophic failures and/or prolonged loss of broadcast service to Iowans; and,
- 2.) to meet an anticipated Federal Communications Commission licensee requirement to update our broadcast standard within the next three years.

Current Equipment Priorities: To assure Iowa PBS's broadcast infrastructure evolves with new technology advancement meeting both industry and licensing standards, and to continue our delivery of high quality and reliable broadcast service valued by Iowans, Iowa PBS seeks \$3 million in FY2027 to replace the aging UHF transmitters serving KRIN (Waterloo) and KSIN (Sioux City). This request represents the first of a two-year plan to improve and enhance broadcast signal penetration for Iowa PBS programming by replacing the remaining five of the nine transmitters serving our broadcast network. The second year of this request includes transmitters serving KHIN (Red Oak), KTIN (Fort Dodge) and KYIN (Mason City).

Existing equipment has long passed its life expectancy and is no longer supported by the manufacturer or the manufacturer has gone out of business. Replacement parts for the existing equipment are no longer manufactured or sold. Transmitter replacement requires specialized equipment and personnel and long lead times for procurement of materials, emphasizing the need for immediate action to avoid prolonged loss of service when (not if) a failure occurs. A prolonged loss of service puts our FCC license renewals at risk.

Public safety alerting: Replacement transmitters capable of operating the NextGen broadcast standard will permit enhanced emergency alerts to be embedded within the Iowa PBS statewide broadcast signal that reaches all 99 counties of Iowa. This technology will further enhance public safety alerting as prioritized by FEMA. This includes tornado, flash flooding or thunderstorm warnings along with amber and boil alerts. Currently, Iowa PBS broadcast towers transmit all FEMA IPAWS emergency alerts to cellular towers and ultimately to mobile devices.

Long term savings and sustainability: New transmitter equipment recently installed at KBIN (Council Bluffs) and KQIN (Davenport) have performed more efficiently with less electricity, and have required less cooling, reducing utility costs for both transmitter facilities. Iowa PBS anticipates that with each additional new transmitter, seasonal utility savings of nearly 50% per site will be accomplished, improving the network's long-term sustainability.

Therefore, Iowa PBS respectfully requests \$3,000,000 in FY 2027 for the replacement of two UHF transmitters serving KRIN (Waterloo) and KSIN (Sioux City).