

January 11, 2024

ITEM 210-2006-R0124

Request for Authorization for Montana PBS/Montana State University to Acquire Three FCC Broadcast TV Licenses, Real Estate, and Improvements Located in Glendive and Miles City and a Translator in Sidney, MT; Montana State University

THAT

Consistent with the Board's authority to manage and control the Montana University System and in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.6, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University to purchase 3 FCC broadcast licenses; their associated physical real estate, equipment and technology located in Glendive, Miles City and Sidney MT.

EXPLANATION

1. MSU, on behalf of Montana PBS, has been offered the opportunity to purchase 3 FCC broadcast licenses in Glendive, Miles City and Sidney. There are no new broadcast licenses available from the FCC and the acquisition of these will allow Montana PBS to bring free over-the-air public television to these areas of eastern MT.
2. The purchase price for all the licenses, physical real estate and equipment shall be \$375,000. This price is supported by a third-party broker's opinion of value.
3. Benefits because of this acquisition are to:
 - Introduce free, over-the-air public television to Glendive, Miles City, Sidney, and surrounding communities for the first time in state history.
 - Provide local citizens access to four additional Montana PBS broadcast channels (Montana PBS Kids, Create, World and the Montana Public Affairs Network) that are not available via subscription-only cable or satellite TV services.
 - Extend the educational mission of Montana's University System, with local and national PBS programs that are educational, informational, and entertaining for audiences of all ages.
 - Connect eastern MT communities to the state through access to Montana PBS *locally* produced news, public affairs, cultural and historical programs.
4. The funds for this purchase will come from:
 - Montana PBS and/or Friends of Montana PBS reserve funding.
 - Federal, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), *annual* Distance Service Grant for operation of multiple digital repeater transmitters/translators to serve distant communities.

ATTACHMENTS

None