



**MONTANA STATE
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

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March 27, 2025

Senate Finance and Claims Committee
Via email to Katie Guenther, LFD

RE: Senator Boldman's March 27, 2025, request

Chair Glimm, Senator Boldman, and Members of the Committee:

Please find attached OPD's response to Senator Boldman's request from today's HB 10 hearing.

Sincerely,

/s/ Koan Mercer

Koan Mercer
Central Services Division Administrator

OPD HB 10 Request

OPD seeks \$124,135 towards installing Montana Secure Wi-Fi in District Court courthouses to provide stable and secure state network access for all state employees. This figure represents an estimate of \$83,875 in equipment costs and \$40,260 in installation costs. OPD expects individual site costs to vary significantly depending upon the size, location, and presence of any existing, partial coverage. Priority and final equipment deployments will be adjusted based upon contemporaneous review of each location in consultation with SITSD, but OPD seeks to assess and, if appropriate, install Montana Secure state Wi-Fi for at least the District Court courthouses in the following counties:

- Meagher
- Judith Basin
- Golden Valley
- Powder River
- Musselshell
- Wheatland
- Valley
- McCone
- Prairie
- Wibaux
- Fallon
- Garfield
- Treasure
- Ravalli
- Lincoln
- Jefferson
- Broadwater
- Beaverhead
- Madison
- Sweet Grass

As funds permit, OPD, in consultation with SITSD, will also review and consider additional expansions or improvements for other locations, such as Cascade County, Lake County, and Gallatin County, with existing but incomplete Montana Secure Wi-Fi coverage.