**ATTACHMENT E**

**TECHNICAL CAPABILITY STATEMENT**

The Blair Telephone Company, a part of American Broadband Nebraska, has been serving customers with technologically advanced communications services for more than 120 years. Blair Telephone currently serves 4,919 broadband subscribers across three exchanges. American Broadband Nebraska services over 11,000 residential broadband users with speeds up to 1 Gbps.

American Broadband started offering data in 1997 with dial-up service and expanded to Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) technology over copper lines to every exchange in 2008.  We currently use Fiber to the Home (FTTH), DSL, VDSL and fixed wireless technologies to provide broadband service.  With 73 employees, American Broadband Nebraska serves homes and businesses through a multi-layer internal/external help desk. Two field technicians will be designated to the proposed project area with additional resources available from the nearby Blair NE home base.

American Broadband has multiple redundant connections to Tier 1 Internet backbones through a recently constructed 100 Gbps ring. We monitor network usage through a 24-hour automated alert system.  We also run routine speed and latency tests to the customer gateway to ensure key performance indicators are met.

American Broadband currently offers symmetrical speeds to business customers where fiber is available and will expand that offering to include residential customers in compliance with the requirements of this grant application, offering at least 100 Mbps symmetric speeds to all locations in the project area with no data caps or contracts.  This project area will be served with Next Gen GPON technology to provide future capacity (up to 10 Gbps symmetric speeds).

More than half of the homes covered in the Blair Telephone serving area are served by FTTH. Our recent experience converting customers from copper to fiber in Blair makes us uniquely qualified to quickly transition Fort Calhoun to fiber. Our understanding of the Nebraska terrain, combined with decades of experience with aerial and buried plant will enable a high-quality, cost-effective solution.

Our organization participates in both the Federal Lifeline Program and the Affordable Connectivity Program, which allow consumers in our territories the ability to access voice or broadband services at a reduced rate.  Currently, we have 429 customers across our Nebraska service areas that take advantage of these programs. We are committed to making American Broadband the preeminent broadband service provider for rural communities throughout the United States.