



Legislation Text

File #: 22-021, **Version:** 2

Ordinance No. 22-05 amending the cable franchise agreement between Falcon Broadband, LLC doing business as StratusIQ and the City of Colorado Springs to expand the Service Area in which StratusIQ may provide cable television services.

Presenter:

Joshua Pace, Senior Contracting Specialist, Office of Innovation

Summary:

StratusIQ has requested an update of their corporate name, and an expansion of the Service Area in order to provide cable television services to customers located in portions of the City that have been annexed.

Background:

In January 2007 the City of Colorado Springs granted a cable franchise to Falcon Broadband, Inc., now identified as Falcon Broadband, LLC doing business as StratusIQ, for the provision of cable television services within the City of Colorado Springs. In 2018, City Council approved Stratus IQ's request to renew its cable franchise for an additional 10 years.

In the original franchise agreement, the Service Area was restricted to areas north of U.S. Route 24 and east of Interstate 25. As areas annexed to the City are preparing for development, StratusIQ has requested to be able to provide service in those areas. The proposed Service Area is shown in the attached map.

In addition to the expanded Service Area, the City and StratusIQ have agreed upon service line extension requirements, similar to the requirements in the cable franchise agreement between the City and Comcast. These line extension requirements will ensure that StratusIQ provides service to residents as requested, and in accordance with the terms of the franchise.

The proposed franchise fees, customer service standards, installation standards, and access channels align with those within the Comcast cable franchise agreement. City Charter Section 10-30 (a) provides that unless the terms, fees, compensation, conditions, or any other matter relating to the granting of franchises are set by the vote of the electorate, the City Council shall establish those terms by ordinance.

This item supports the Office of Innovation's goal to ensure all Colorado Springs residents have access to affordable, reliable, and high-quality telecommunications services.

The City's Office of Innovation requests that City Council adopt the attached Ordinance to approve the amended cable franchise agreement.

Previous Council Action:

On January 23, 2007, after 73.57% of registered qualified electors voted to approve the original cable franchise agreement, City Council adopted Resolution No. 15-07 which authorized the mayor to execute the agreement. Subsequently, on February 18, 2018, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 18-5 to renew the cable franchise agreement for an additional 10 years.

Financial Implications:

The cable franchise fees are set at 5% of the Franchisee's gross revenue.

City Council Appointed Board/Commission/Committee Recommendation:

N/A

Stakeholder Process:

N/A

Alternatives:

To disapprove of the Ordinance and not authorize the City to amend the cable franchise agreement.

Proposed Motion:

Move to approve the Ordinance amending the cable franchise agreement with Falcon Broadband, LLC dba StratusIQ.

N/A