



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WTC and CARES Act Funding Bring Fiber Services to McFarland, KS

Wamego, KS, 02-02-2021 — McFarland, Kansas is on the fiber Internet map. Another small community abandoned in the Internet race, McFarland now has access to Internet speeds of up to 1 Gig. Following a successful application for a Connectivity Emergency Response Grant (CERG), WTC has completed its overbuild to bring fiber technology to McFarland by the end of 2020.

“Before WTC, we only had one local Internet provider, and the service was slow like dialup. Many residents had to rely on cell phone hot spots, but then you had to limit usage or go to the library or somewhere else to gain the access you needed,” stated Dorine Schley, resident and City employee of McFarland.

“With WTC, we can now work, do homework, or attend classes online with a connection that is fast and reliable. I’m just so happy with WTC’s service.”

“We are very pleased with WTC. Our previous provider offered poor customer service, and we weren’t achieving the speeds we were paying for. Only one person could be on the Internet at a time and the TV was always buffering,” added resident Angie Boeckman. “With WTC, our experience has been fantastic. We can now all be on the Internet at the same time without slowing down or buffering, and the technicians have been very professional and reliable as well.”

The CERG Program was created to address the increased need for Internet connectivity in Kansas due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were focused on improving access to unserved and underserved areas of Kansas to address the increased needs of telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote business services. Although a great opportunity to bring better Internet access to areas of the State, the inherent challenge is that the CERG projects, from start to finish, were to be completed by the end of 2020. Despite this challenge, the success of the McFarland project can already be seen, as 75% of the residents and businesses have signed with WTC for Internet services on the new fiber network.

“WTC is pleased to announce that we met the deadline of having our Fiber-To-The-Premise network deployed in McFarland by the end of 2020. Being able to build a complete fiber network in less than three months shows WTC’s dedication to bringing broadband to our rural communities,” stated Jeff Wick, General Manager of WTC. “This is a big win for McFarland, as they now have a fiber optic network that will provide the speed and bandwidth necessary to support telehealth, remote schooling and simultaneous connections. This will also help support their economic development efforts as well,” Wick added.

WTC is headquartered in Wamego (KS) and provides a full line of Voice, Internet and Video services to residential, governmental, educational and commercial clients. For more information about WTC, please visit www.wtcks.com or call 785-456-1000.