



Strafford R-VI School District Request for Proposals (RFP) for Firewall Replacement

2023 Firewall

RFP Number: Tech-2023-Firewall

Technical inquiries and information requests regarding this RFP should be directed to:

Dave Holst
Strafford R-VI School District
201 McCabe St.
Strafford, MO 65742
417-736-7000
dholst@straffordschools.net

Physical proposals and bids must be postmarked before March 14, 2023, to:

ATTN: Dr. Michelle Gardner
Strafford R-VI School District
201 McCabe St
Strafford, MO 65742

Electronic submissions of proposals and bids must be submitted in PDF format and received before March 20, 2023, to:

michelleg@straffordschools.net

Please note that all proposals must be received at the designated location by the stated deadline.

Late proposals will be considered void and unacceptable for this RFP.

STRAFFORD R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS AND TO AWARD IN PART OR TOTAL WHICHEVER IS DEEMED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Strafford R-VI School District Profile

Strafford R-VI School District is made up of an Early Childhood program and elementary, middle, and high schools. Our district administration is located at 201 W. McCabe St in Strafford, MO 65757. We enroll over 1400 students and employ approximately 200 professional employees using more than 2000 attached individual devices. Devices consist of iPads, Chromebooks, and Windows laptop and desktop computers with some other OS and proprietary devices. These devices are supplied by a 500Mbps over fiber.

The District invites vendors to submit proposals addressing the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (RFP).

This RFP provides, in general, the requirements and evaluative criteria for providing and replacing our firewall. Responses from all prospective vendors should address pricing, service descriptions, and implementation procedures.

Goals of the RFP

It is the intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide bidders with sufficient information to propose a replacement for our firewall in our main data center with an E-rate eligible firewall and necessary equipment. The response should include all equipment, cabling, software, and services necessary to meet the RFP's goals.

Proposal Details

Below are the minimum specifications and estimated quantities for the equipment for which we are seeking proposals. All information presented shall be considered as a minimum specification.

The district would like to have a new firewall installed and configured as part of this project. The vendor will work under the supervision and guidance of the Director of Technology and Network Specialists. Summer or after-hours installations are required to minimize interruption to school operations. This firewall will be installed in an existing rack, replacing the current firewall. The configuration of the new firewall will match the operation of the firewall being replaced in addition to making any necessary configurations to other attached network equipment. The proposed device should be a standalone dedicated device and must be compatible with existing HP, Aerohive, and other equipment.

The proposed firewall should include the capability to:

- Optimize network traffic,

- Identify and control threats to the network and attached devices.
- Monitor all devices attached to and accessing the network.
- Layer 7 application control with perimeter firewall and stateful packet inspection ability
- Gateway anti-malware protection
- HTTPS secure layer inspection
- Anonymous proxy detection & blocking
- Intrusion detection & prevention
- Bandwidth shaping and management
- Real-time Content Analysis
- Maintain a log file of all significant network traffic and device data to support real-time analysis and must provide for the export of historical data for forensic analysis.
- Scalability for future growth

Additional capabilities that provide for optimized bandwidth usage and network security should be detailed in proposals and will be considered when making the selection.

In addition to the firewall device proposals should specify:

- additional cabling as needed.
- Reorganization of patch cables, fiber, and labeling as needed.
- Migration of the configuration or manual reconfiguration of the new firewall match and exceed the current Smoothwall firewall.
- For any brand of equipment submitted the Vendor must provide manufacturer documentation for all critical requirements.

Unspecified additional capabilities that provide for optimized bandwidth usage and network security should be detailed in proposals and will be considered when making the selection.

All best practices shall be observed during this project.

In the proposal, the vendor must indicate whether they are or are not willing to submit Form 474 to USAC for reimbursement. The vendor's willingness to submit Form 474 will be considered during the evaluation process.

Thorough documentation of the entire installation and training of District staff in the management of the device will occur to complete the project between the District's personnel and the winning bidder.

Interested parties should provide one, three, and five-year license pricing. The request is for hardware plus 24x7 vendor or manufacturer support. Vendors can include pricing for various bundles.

RFP Contact

Inquiries and requests relating to the content, timeline, or requirements outlined in this RFP, as well as the associated proposals, should be made via email to::

Dr. Michelle Gardner
Strafford R-VI School District
201 McCabe St.
Strafford, MO 65742
417-736-7000
michelleg@straffordschools.net

RFP Response Format

Electronic proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to be sent in a Word document or Adobe PDF format as an attachment to an email to: michelleg@straffordschools.net.

Hardcopies of proposals must be submitted in envelopes marked "Tech-2023-Firewall", with the name and full contact information of the supplier as applicable, on the outside of the envelope.

Physical proposals and documentation must be delivered to the Strafford R-VI Schools District Office or postmarked before March 14, 2023, to:

ATTN: Michelle Gardner
Strafford R-VI School District
201 McCabe St
Strafford, MO 65742

Electronic submissions of proposals and documentation must be submitted in PDF or MS Word format and received before March 20, 2023, to:

michelleg@straffordschools.net

Timeframe and Key Dates

| Activity | Date |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| RFP Issued | 2/9/2023 |
| Vendor Physical RFP Responses Due | 3/14/2023 3:00 PM |
| Vendor Electronic RFP Responses Due | 3/20/2023 3:30 PM |
| Award Notification(s) | 3/31/2023 |

Proposal Preparation

Where signatures are required, the signatory must be authorized to act on behalf of the vendor, including, without limitation, the authority to sign contracts on the vendor's behalf.

Questions

Strafford R-VI School District will help clarify any issues or questions regarding this RFP. It is the vendor's responsibility to seek this clarification. Please direct all questions via email to dholst@straffordschools.net and michelleg@straffordschools.net. All questions will receive as timely and accurate responses as possible depending on the question presented.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and scored by Strafford R-VI School District. Vendors are urged to make their most attractive offer since each vendor's ability to satisfy Strafford R-VI School District requirements as described in the RFP will be evaluated and scored based on the proposal as submitted. No replacement or adjustments will be allowed before the acceptance of a specific proposal.

Award Criteria

| Category | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Price | 30% |
| Compatibility with Existing Infrastructure | 30% |
| Vendor Ability to Provide Equipment + Install/Support/Documentation | 30% |
| Vendor K-12 Experience and References | 10% |

Bid Validity

Any proposal submitted by a vendor(s) during this process is considered legally binding and valid for the terms outlined in this document. Proposals will be considered an offer to do business with Strafford R-VI School District and shall be binding for 90 days from the proposal's due date.

Late Submissions

Strafford R-VI School District has established the RFP process and timeline in a manner that is intended to benefit all participants. Please respect all dates and times, and adhere to established guidelines. Late submissions will not be considered for this RFP process.

Pricing

Vendors shall submit complete itemized pricing encompassing all products and services in the proposal. The vendor MUST provide the E-rate eligibility percentage for the overall package.

Notification

Strafford R-VI School District will evaluate all the proposals and present the winning proposal for approval by District Administration. All proposers will be notified of the selected proposal by email.

Company Experience and/or References

OCS reserves the right to fully investigate the qualifications of any bidder(s) based on references supplied and publicly available information.

Vendors are encouraged to supply evidence of experience on projects of similar nature and/or magnitude. Provide references listing: customer name, address, contact names, and telephone/fax numbers. The vendors may also supply third-party ratings to demonstrate their success in the IT marketplace.