

Item: WLS Library Network Upgrade

Background: In July 2020 a full network audit was performed and presented to the WLS Board. Some of the key recommendations were the upgrading and reconfiguration of the datacenter. There were also recommendations that focused on the current private Local Area Network design that carried a single point of failure. With the new Service Level Agreement in place, libraries are now capable of terminating network service with WLS at the end of each year. The SLA and the network audit report has made the need for an updated modern network design necessary.

Status: A pilot site has been running this new network design since November 2020. We are now looking to replicate this setup across all member libraries who use WLS IT for their Managed Network Service. The specific firewall and similar switches at all locations falls in line with network audit recommendations for hardware similarity across our environment. It is also important to note that most of the current Cisco network equipment has been classified as End of Life (EOL) from their manufacturer. The new firewall equipment will have High Availability implemented, which allows for redundancy at all locations. Bids will be received for the SonicWall firewall hardware as part of this process to adhere to WLS's purchasing policy.

**Recommended
Action:**

WLS staff recommends all current library hardware be replaced and the new network infrastructure design be implemented at all participating member libraries. WLS IT is requesting \$465,000 to be added to the Capital Budget to complete this project.

April 26, 2022