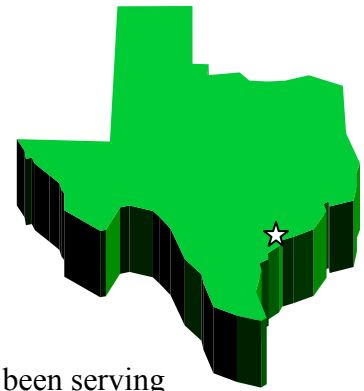


LA WARD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, INC.

LA WARD, TEXAS



Historical Information

- Established in July 1940, the La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. has been serving its customers in the La Ward, Lolita, and Port Alto areas for over 50 years. We serve all their telecommunication needs, ranging from access lines and business key systems to data communication links.
- The La Ward Telephone Exchange is also proud to have played an active role in many of our communities' youth projects, including 4H, FFA, and Little League, as well as area school, church, and local fire and EMS fund raisers.
- In 1999 La Ward Telephone Exchange was named the Outstanding Business of the Year by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture for its outstanding Contribution and Volunteer service to the people of Jackson County.

Current Services

- Today, La Ward Telephone Exchange provides service to approximately 1,146 access lines in 3 exchanges.
- Since 1976, La Ward Telephone has constructed over 459 route miles of both copper and fiber optic facilities in the 234.8 square mile area which it serves.
- The La Ward Telephone Exchange is presently equipped with the latest in Digital Switching, Data, and Fiber Optic technology, with plans to continue towards providing all future customer needs. Some of our current features available are; Tone Dialing, Call Forwarding, Caller Name and Number Identifying along with many others
- Beginning in 1996, La Ward Telephone has allowed its customers to petition and connect to the eligible Expanded Local Calling areas of their choice. This has allowed its customers a larger local calling area as well as access to a number of Internet Service Providers.
- Internet Services has been available to our customers through an affiliate since December 2000.

Advanced Services for the Future

In December 2001 La Ward Telephone began providing DSL service in all three of its exchanges.

In 2004, LaWard Telephone Exchange, Inc. replaced most of its aerial cable facilities with buried cable. Many subscriber loops have been shortened with the installation of digital loop and fiber optic concentrating equipment, making possible the offering of DSL services to nearly all its service areas.

In 2005, LaWard Telephone Exchange, Inc., upgraded its Digital Mapping System and Hurricane Contingency Plan, including upgrading and adding additional emergency generators.

For more information please contact Terri Parker, General Manager of La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. at (361) 872-2211.