

DATE: June 6, 2016

TO: Commissioners Court

FROM: Bruce Sherbet

RE: Election Department Enhancements (Phase Two)

On May 2, 2016, the elections department briefed Commissioners Court on areas needing enhancements prior to the November 8, 2016 General Election. The recommendations were approved in Court Order 2016-288-05-02. The elections department has identified additional election enhancements that are needed prior to the general election. Following are the recommended enhancements:

E-Pollbook Voter Qualifying Laptops Needing Replacement

The elections department is currently deploying four different models of laptops to polling places for use in qualifying voters. Commissioners Court recently approved purchasing 50 additional laptops which brings the total of E-Pollbook laptops to 250. Of the 250 E-Pollbook laptops in inventory, the warranty has long expired on 78 of them and some of these units are starting to fail. Additionally, using laptops that require different types connectivity and set-up has proven to be problematic in the areas of configuring, training and the usage of them.

Following is a breakdown of the E-Pollbook inventory:

| <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Model</u> | <u>Purchase Date</u> | <u>Warranty Status</u> | <u>Type of Connectivity</u> |
|-------------|--------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 20 | Lenovo T510 | 09/22/2010 | Expired | MiFi |
| 58 | Lenovo T520 | 08/24/2011 | Expired | MiFi |
| 50 | Lenovo T530 | 09/25/2012 | Expires 09/25/2016 | GOBI |
| 72 | Lenovo T540 | 07/24/2016 | Expires 08/31/2018 | GOBI |
| 50 | Lenovo T540 | (Approved for purchase on May 2, 2016) | | GOBI |

Recommendation

It is recommended that the county replace the 78 older and out of warranty Lenovo T510 and Lenovo T520 laptops with Lenovo T540 laptops (or latest model laptop) that use GOBI connections. This will standardize the types of laptops used at polling places and will minimize the challenges relating to equipment failure, configuration and training.

Estimated cost is \$117,000.00. (78 laptops @ \$1,500.00 ea. = \$117,000.00)

Replace Server in the Ballot Tabulation Room

The server used in the ballot tabulation room is over five years old. Recent issues with tabulation results have been attributed by the server hardware by the elections system vendor. Additionally, the server is out of warranty and has shown to be susceptible to failure in future elections. Dominion, the county election system vendor and the Collin County IT Department has recommended replacement of the ballot tabulation server. Dominion is recommending a specific server, sold through Dominion, which will be pre-loaded with the requisite operating system and application software. The operating system required by the election vendor is no longer supported by Microsoft. The IT department views this server as an application device which will only be used to meet a specific use case.

Recommendation

Request approval to replace the server that operates the ballot counting software in the tabulation room.

Estimated cost is \$2,300.00.

Cisco Equipment for Overflow Phone Bank Area

On May 2, 2016, Commissioners Court approved an elections department recommendation to convert the former ballot tabulation station to a 12 person overflow phone bank. The former ballot tabulation station has never had network connectivity within the room and does not have switch port capacity to add 12

phone/data lines for the phone bank. Switch equipment is necessary in order to provide the communication infrastructure to support 12 new phone lines.

Recommendation

It is requested that the county purchase Cisco switch equipment to accommodate a 12 person overflow phone bank in the former ballot tabulation room.

Estimated cost for the switch equipment is \$11,500.00.

Financial

Funding source for the requested enhancements is 033, Contract Elections

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|--|--------------|
| ■ Replace 78 E-Pollbook Laptops | \$117,000.00 |
| ■ Replace Server in Ballot Tabulation Room | \$2,300.00 |
| ■ Cisco Switch Equipment for Overflow Phone Bank | \$11,500.00 |