



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

JIM SKINNER, SHERIFF

To: Commissioners Court

From: Sheriff Jim Skinner *JOS*

Date: Friday, October 31, 2025

Re: RFP No. 2026-011, Inmate Phone & Tablet Services (Publication of RFP)

A sheriff's office must offer an inmate-phone plan, an inmate-visitation plan, and an inmate-correspondence plan. *See* 37 TAC 291.1, 291.4, 291.2. A phone-and-tablet system is vital to providing these services, and the County's contract for inmate phones and tablets (RFP No. 2017-121) expires at the end of this calendar year. **Thus, I ask you to approve the publication of RFP No. 2026-011 to start the competitive bidding process to re-bid the contract for these services.**

A few legal developments have slowed the process of re-bidding this contract. In late 2024, the FCC published new rules that changed the regulatory landscape for incarcerated people's communication services (IPCS) (FCC's term). *See* FCC, IPCS, Rates, 89 Fed. Reg. 77,244 (Sept. 20, 2024). In June 2025, the FCC suspended these new rules and extended the compliance deadline to April 1, 2027. *See* FCC Order, IPCS (released June 30, 2025).¹ In early October, however, the FCC issued a proposed order, which would overrule key parts of the June order, including the compliance date. *See* FCC, Report and Order on Reconsideration (Oct. 7, 2025).² On Oct. 28, the FCC approved the Oct. 7 proposed rule—but indicated that it will change some of its language in a final version. *See* FCC, Commission Documents, "FCC Approves Incarcerated People's Communications Services Reform" (Oct. 28, 2025).³ These changes will affect the County's cost to provide IPCS.

As of this morning (Oct. 31), the FCC has not published the final rule in the *Federal Register*. The *FR* publication date is important because it will anchor the time for counties to comply with the Oct. 7 order, including the partial reinstatement of the site commission under RFP No. 2017-121 (call the MAG) with ICSolutions (to 120 days after the *FR* publication date).

Finally, I expect that the County will also need to extend its current contract, RFP No. 2017-121, for another year to provide time for the new RFP and evaluation process. I expect to submit this request by separate memo.

¹ <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-565A1.pdf>

² <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415061A1.pdf>

³ <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-approves-incarcerated-peoples-communications-services-reforms>