



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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Office of the State Public Defender Joint Technology Committee Quarterly Update RE: Public Defense in the Digital Age 5/30/2023

1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial plans?

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

OSPD has completed the RFP process for the new storage solution and finalized the contract with the selected vendor, Panzura. Initial project planning is underway and the necessary hardware has been purchased. The project is on schedule with the Office's initial plans.

IT Helpdesk Support

All FTE positions have been filled as planned.

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

OSPD just recently obtained licenses for Evidence.com from Axon and is starting up the process with its first office. This is slower than initially planned largely due to changes in Axon's licensing model in the middle of negotiations and significantly more money need for those licenses. Implementation of the transcription services and case management solution have been completed as planned.

Mobile Cell Connectivity

Cell phones have been ordered and delivered for all attorneys who requested them.

Computer Hardware Improvements

Upgraded specifications to the laptops we provide have been completed and are now part of OSPD's standard equipment refresh cycle.

Bandwidth Increases

All new and upgraded circuits have been ordered. So far, 16 of 23 sites have them installed. Progress has been slower than initially planned but timing is subject to the telecommunication companies' construction schedules and various permitting authorities.

2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

Already Spent: \$1,127,897

In Progress to Spend This Year: \$3,975,000

IT Helpdesk Support

In Progress to Spend This Year: \$356,163

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

Already Spent: \$148,000 (Case Management) + \$50,000 (Axon)

In Progress to Spend This Year: \$231,000 (Transcription)

Mobile Cell Connectivity

In Progress to Spend This Year: \$265,000

Computer Hardware Improvements

Already Spent: \$179,055

Bandwidth Increases

In Progress to Spend This Year: \$163,000

3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

By the next quarterly update, OSPD anticipates to be migrating its first group of sites over to the new storage solution.

IT Helpdesk Support

This is already complete.

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

By the next quarterly update, OSPD anticipates that it will have a few sites using Evidence.com to receive discovery from the DAs and the automated download process in place for those sites.

Mobile Cell Connectivity

This is already complete.

Computer Hardware Improvements

This is already complete and part of OSPD's standard equipment refresh cycle.

Bandwidth Increases

By the next quarterly update, OSPD anticipates all but one or two will be complete depending on the carrier's schedule.

4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

OSPD anticipates implementation of the project will be complete by June 30, 2024.

IT Helpdesk Support

This is already complete.

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

OSPD anticipates implementation of the project will be complete by December 31, 2023.

Mobile Cell Connectivity

This is already complete.

Computer Hardware Improvements

This is already complete and part of OSPD's standard equipment refresh cycle.

Bandwidth Increases

OSPD anticipates this will be complete by December 31, 2023.

5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

The amount of discovery needed to be stored has continued to grow at a very high rate (2-3 terabytes per day) and OSPD is anticipating that the annual on-going costs will need to be adjusted accordingly to account for that growth. The initial budget request was based on a starting storage of 1500 terabytes but OSPD's current total storage is 2000 and will be around 2500 terabytes by time implementation is complete.

IT Helpdesk Support

OSPD does not have any concerns.

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

The use of third-party companies to transfer body camera footage and other media in the discovery presents on-going problems. The largest system, evidence.com run by Axon, has entered into several contracts with police departments on an individual basis. Some of these contracts allowed prosecuted free access to web-based portals which eased review and use of this material. As free access expires, some district attorney offices have paid for different levels of features and licenses.

Largely the Office of the State Public Defender has to download materials through links which is a slow, time consuming process which delays receipt of material. Additionally, when material is added in an individual case, to receive new material requires reuploading all the prior downloaded material.

OSPD thought this problem would be improved after Axon previously told OSPD that it would cost about \$5000 a year for access to their application programming interface (API) to automate downloading of discovery. However, Axon now requires OSPD to license all its employees at a cost of \$125,000/year to use a web-based portal and provide the API.

OSPD has discussed these issues with CDAC.

CDAC has approached individual DAs offices and encouraged them to make some changes in procedures. These procedures are necessary to allow OSPD to receive and make use of this evidence through Axon's web-based portal. OSPD is negotiating with individual DA offices to make necessary changes. OSPD will license its employees and gain access to an API for 3 years. This is a temporary solution to a longer-term problem that comes with police agencies entering into contracts with different vendors which then make CDAC and OSPD back-end users.

Axon is proposing to reach a long-term agreement to provide storage for all discovery for CDAC and licenses to OSPD and others. However, such a contract may be extremely costly.

CDAC is working on long term options; however, issues attendant to third-party companies contracted with law enforcement will present issues that must be addressed in the future.

Mobile Cell Connectivity

OSPD does not have any concerns.

Computer Hardware Improvements

OSPD does not have any concerns.

Bandwidth Increases

OSPD does not have any concerns.

6. For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?

Comprehensive IT Storage Solution

The insight and potential changes noted as part of the concern in #5.

IT Helpdesk Support

Not applicable

Digital Litigation Tools (Transcription and Case Management)

The insight and potential changes noted as part of the concern in #1 and #5.

Mobile Cell Connectivity

Not applicable

Computer Hardware Improvements

Not applicable

Bandwidth Increases

Not applicable