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Acquiring a New Voting System: Staff Assessment of Acquisition/Development Models

Voting Systems Assessment Project



Overview

- **Acquisition/Development Models**
 - Commercial Off-The-Shelf Acquisition
 - In-House Development
 - Public/Private Partnership
 - Public/Academic Institution or Non-Profit Partnership
 - Joint Ownership (Public/Public)
- **Contract Development**
 - RFP
 - Selection and Negotiation
 - Board Approval
 - Timeline
- **Considerations**
- **Dedicated Funding**
 - Proposition 41
 - Help America Vote Act (HAVA)



Acquisition/Development Models

The RR/CC is assessing various models for the acquisition/development of a modernized voting system. Models being assessed are:

- Commercial Off-The-Shelf
- In-House Development
- Public/Private Partnership
- Public/Academic Institution or Non-Profit Partnership
- Joint Ownership (Public/Public)



Acquisition/Development Models

Commercial Off-The-Shelf

- Developed by vendor
- No customization or substantive modifications
- Hardware/software traditionally propriety to vendor

In-House Development

- Developed by departmental staff
- Vendor involvement limited to hardware acquisition
- Hardware/software propriety to County
- County seeks federal and state approval independently



Acquisition/Development Models

Public/Private Partnership

- Developed by departmental staff and outside vendor
- Hardware/software propriety to the County
- County seeks federal and state approval independently

Public/Academic Institution or Non-Profit Partnership

- Developed by departmental staff
- Vendor involvement limited to hardware acquisition
- Hardware/software propriety to County or may be public domain
- County seeks federal and state approval independently

Joint Ownership (Public/Public)

- County partners with other public entities (such as another county) to develop or procure a system using pooled resources
- Co-owners share the cost of acquiring and maintaining the system, including upgrades or enhancements



Commercial Off-The-Shelf Acquisitions in LA County

- Precinct Ballot Reader (PBR) and Audio Ballot Booth (ABB) Acquisition
 - Hardware/software purchase of HAVA-compliant components
 - Vendor responsible for Federal and State approval
 - Proprietary software
 - Dedicated counsel and technical consultants
- Electronic Countywide Accounting and Purchasing System (eCAPS)
 - Software license requiring extensive customization
 - Modifications exclusive to LA County at additional expense



In-House Development in LA County

- Joint Enterprise Development Interface (JEDI)
 - Software
 - No vendor solution due to LA County recording volumes
 - Cost restrictions for vendor solutions
 - Outlining deliverables/specifications
 - Dedicated technical staffing
 - County determines enhancement roll-outs



In-House Development in LA County

- Countywide Address Management System (CAMS)
 - Software
 - Multi-departmental project to develop a geographic information system for maintaining street addresses in a central and standardized shared data repository
 - Improved inter-departmental work flow and data quality control, greater agency participation, data sharing and standardization
 - Data updated at the local level—over time will product the authoritative source of LA County street centerline and addressing information
 - Improved data sharing and standardization reduced redundant data storage and maintenance activities resulting in significant cost savings to the County
 - No vendor licensed data or software, thus no limiting of ability to share software functionality and data with cities and agencies partnering with County



Public/Private Partnership in LA County

- Treasurer and Tax Collector- Public Administrator
 - Software
 - Vendor and County did not reach agreement after negotiation process
- Department of Public Social Services – Los Angeles Eligibility, Automated Determination, Evaluation and Reporting (LEADER System)
 - Proprietary Software
 - Lengthy solicitation process (6 years) including multiple addendums issued, proposal evaluations, contractor protests and funding issues
 - Collaboration with California Health and Human Services, Federal Health and Human Services and the US Department of Agriculture
 - Dedicated planning and monitoring consultants



Public/Academic Institution or Non-Profit Partnership in LA County

- LA County and University of California (USC) – Medical School Operating Agreement
 - USC provides hospital staff for \$120 million per year

Joint Ownership (Public/Public) in LA County

- SECURE
 - Partnership with Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties in the acquisition of an Electronic Recording Delivery System with private contractor
 - Owner counties own the software
 - Changes and enhancements to system require approval from the Owner counties
 - System allows the delivery of digitized documents for recording and return electronically
 - Contractor developed software is limited and requires customization



Contract Development

Contract Model

- Request for Proposal (RFP):
 - Develop the Statement of Work (SOW)
 - Develop RFP and Sample Agreement
 - Approvals
 - Internal (Project Management and Executive staff)
 - External (County Counsel, CIO, Risk Management, etc.)

Releasing the RFP

- Upload to County website, publish in newspapers, email prospective proposers
- Bidders Conference
- Proposal submission
- Proposal evaluations

Contractor Selection and Negotiation

- Identify most responsive and responsible proposer
- Notify contractor of selection and begin negotiation



Contract Development

Final Reviews

- Reviews
 - Internal (Project Management and Executive staff)
 - External (County Counsel, CIO, Risk Management, etc.)
 - Selected contractor review and sign-off

Board Approval

- Operations Cluster
- Board filing, Agenda and approval

Kick-off

- Start-up meeting (contractor, operations and technical staff, management, executive staff and other interested parties)



Contract Development Timeline

- Solicitation Development (RFP, Statement of Work including technical and maintenance requirements, and Sample Agreement)
 - Eight (8) months
- Solicitation Review, Approvals, and Release of RFP
 - Three (3) months
- Proposal Development, Submission, and Evaluation (including contractor appeals and protests)
 - Four (4) months
- Contract Negotiations with selected contractor
 - Two (2) months
- Final Contract Review and Approvals (including Board approval)
 - Three (3) months



Considerations

- County proprietary hardware and software to reduce system limitations and costs
- Dedicated staff from other County Departments and outside vendors available to offer full-time assistance in their respective area of expertise
 - County Counsel
 - Project Managers (ITSMA Agreements, etc.)
- Subject matter expert counsel to lead contract negotiations and execution
- Use of RFP solicitation model to help outline party's ability to comply with County needs
- If the County decides to develop its own system, utilize a partnership model.



Dedicated Funding

Proposition 41 (Prop 41)

- Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 for updating voting systems managed by the Voting Modernization Board (VMB)
- VMB created by Prop 41 considers and approves applications for all purchases
- VMB allocated \$49.6 million to LA County
- Department currently has a balance of approximately \$49 million (3:1 match)
- Fund currently frozen



Dedicated Funding

Help America Vote Act Section 301 (HAVA 301)

- Signed by the President in 2002 to fund election system improvements
- SOS allocated \$49.6 million to LA County
- Department currently has a balance of approximately \$28.9 million
- Current contract expires 12/31/11; however, possible extension through December 2015
- Research and/or development not currently addressed (possible EAC advisory sought)