

Rick Scott, Governor

Chad Poppell, Secretary

May 28, 2015

Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Ritch Workman
422 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Representative Workman,

On behalf of the Department of Management Services (DMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the important topic of the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS). The purpose of this letter is to respond to your specific request for a preliminary evaluation and cost benefit analysis regarding the proposal from Harris Corporation.

As you may be aware, DMS is in the process of preparing to engage in a competitive procurement for the service and equipment provider for SLERS in the summer of 2016. The current contract with Harris Corporation does not end until 2021 but there needs to be enough lead time for the construction of new network infrastructure if needed.

The needs, as set forth in a business case that the Legislature requested in 2014, are to enhance the system's coverage area and building penetration, upgrade SLERS to P25, Phase 2 standards, and refresh the state's radio inventory.

Harris Corporation recently approached DMS with a concept that, on its face, would address a P25 system upgrade and radio inventory refresh within the four corners of the existing contract.

Preliminary Evaluation

Harris Corporation has proposed an upgrade of the current SLERS system to P25, Phase 2 standards, in the next 24 months at no cost to the state, if the state were to refresh its radio inventory, and those of local SLERS participants, at a cost of \$84 million.

If executed successfully, there would be obvious benefits to the state:

1. State would receive the benefits of better technology and better equipment for our officers within 24 months instead of having to wait until the new contract and migration period begins.
2. State would avoid the cost of upgrading the current SLERS system to P25, Phase 2 standards.
3. Law enforcement officers would be required to carry only one radio, capable of operating on both systems (current and P25), when migrating to a new P25 system.
4. If executed on time, this project should not negatively impact the planned procurement in 2016.

Cost Benefit Analysis

With more information, the opportunity for savings to the state may exist. However, upgrading SLERS is a substantial technical undertaking and discussions to get detailed fiscal and technical specificity would be required in order to provide any formal analysis (other than the preceding preliminary evaluation).

It is important to know that DMS has been focused on the coming procurement and has not entered into any substantive negotiations with Harris Corporation about the specifics required to take this proposal from concept to project plan. Since this proposal was unanticipated and requires an appropriation, DMS looks forward to productive conversations with the Legislature about this proposal, and the necessary technical and contractual elements associated with it.

Should the Legislature decide to fund the project, DMS stands ready to begin the work required to make the project successful. It will involve working closely with the Joint Task Force, our participating agencies, and the Agency for State Technology. It will also require additional financial support to augment DMS staff.

I also respectfully request that, if the Legislature funds the project, other considerations be factored into the appropriation process. It is paramount that the agency preserves its competitive positioning for the upcoming procurement. Therefore, elements such as a hard stop on project completion and pay conditional upon system performance should be considered for inclusion in any appropriation language.

The Department of Management Services appreciates the Legislature's support of SLERS. We remain focused on promoting public safety in Florida and creating cost savings for the taxpayers of our great state. Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Chad Poppell
Secretary

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