



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Division of Prisons

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary
Brandeshawn Harris, Interim Commissioner of Prisons
Loris Sutton, Interim Assistant Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

From: Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary 
Brandeshawn Harris, Interim Commissioner of Prisons 

Subject: Prison Technology Upgrades, Request for Proposal No.19-RFP-497595518 BKS

Date: November 1, 2022

Pursuant to Request for Proposals for Prison Technology Upgrades, No. 19-RFP-497595518 BKS, the Department of Public Safety shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Prison Technology Upgrades, regarding:

Section 19C.11.(a) Request for Proposals for Prison Technology prior to using the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Safety for prison technology upgrades, the Department of Public Safety shall issue a request for proposals that meets the following requirements:

- (1) Either the products or services offered by a participating vendor are capable of each of the following:
 - a. Tracking all phones and other wireless devices within a State prison.
 - b. Blocking the use of contraband phones and other wireless devices within a State prison.
 - c. Broadcasting a secure, private long-term evolution (LTE) network.
 - d. Creating a virtual bank account for each inmate that allows approved friends or family members to send or receive money to and from the account.
 - e. Providing a single sign-on management platform.
- (2) The vendor shall:
 - a. Be able to deploy the products and services it offers within two months of award of the funds.
 - b. Have at least five years of experience performing similar work.
- (3) No funds awarded by the vendor may be used for lobbying the North Carolina General Assembly.

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A work group was established in February 2022 which consisted of representation from the following areas with the Department of Public Safety: Prisons Administrative Services; Operations; Facility Services; Performance and Standards, DPS Information Technology, and DPS Purchasing and Logistics. Additionally, subject matter experts were involved at various phases of the project from the State Department of Information Technology Business Analysis and Procurement Sections.

Timeline of Events:

Date	Action
02/28/22	Initial meeting held to discuss legislation in the budget on Request for Proposals for Prison Technology
03/14/22	Conducted project kickoff meeting with key stakeholders in DPS and DIT to review the legislation and develop a plan to craft the RFP.
3/29/22	Service agreement with DIT Business Analysis (BA) Team completed
3/31/22	Kickoff Meeting with DIT-BA team to gather requirements for RFP.
4/4/22	Requirements gathering session for prison technology
4/11/22	Requirements gathering session for prison technology
4/25/22	Status Meeting for Prison Technology
4/28/22	Requirements gathering session for prison technology
5/11/22	First draft of RFP crafted by project team
5/13/22	Business Case submitted for approval to DIT and OSBM
5/17/22	Discussion on drone technology inclusion in the RFP
5/24/22	Status meeting for Prison Technology
5/31/22	Final RFP draft review by DPS project team
6/13/22	RFP early engagement meeting with Statewide IT Procurement
6/20/22	Statewide IT Procurement completed Draft Review and provided initial feedback.
6/27/22	Business Case approved by DIT and OSBM
6/30/22	Revised RFP returned to Statewide IT Procurement
7/1/22	Statewide IT Procurement returned follow-up questions
7/1/22	DPS Project Team addressed questions raised by Statewide IT Procurement
7/8/22	Confirmation from Statewide IT Procurement they would forward
7/11/22	RFP Decision Point Kicked off by DIT-EPMO
8/18/22	DIT provided legal review feedback
8/19/22	DPR Project Team addressed legal feedback
8/22/22	DPS received approval to post RFP
9/15/22	Pre-Bid Conference held at Bertie
9/16/22	Pre-Bid Conference held at Roanoke River
9/21/22	Questions received from perspective vendors
9/23/22	Questions answered by DPS project team
10/17/22	RFP open for bids
11/2/22	Bid Review and Evaluation scheduled

Section 19C.11.(b) The Department of Public Safety shall, in consultation with the vendor, report on the expenditure of the funds awarded pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than October 1, 2022, in an interim report and no later than October 1, 2023, in a final report.

Implementation of the awarded Contract:

During the pre-bid conference with potential vendor there were concerns surrounding the requirement to deploy the products and services it offers within two months of award. Three (3) responses have been received and the bids are currently in the review and evaluation period.

Accounting of blocked and tracked wireless devices:

No information currently available to report as contract not yet been awarded. Bids are currently in the review and evaluation period.

Accounting of private LTE network:

No information currently available to report as contract not yet been awarded. Bids are currently in the review and evaluation period.

Accounting of Virtual Bank Accounts:

No information currently available to report as contract not yet been awarded. Bids are currently in the review and evaluation period.