



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 5, 2023

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Paper under s. 13.10 for the Committee's June 8, 2023, Meeting

Attached is a paper, prepared by this office, on an item under s. 13.10 of the statutes that has been scheduled for a meeting of the Committee on June 8, 2023.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, in Room 412 East, State Capitol, beginning at 12:59 a.m.

BL/lb
Attachment



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June 8, 2023

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Records Management System

REQUEST

On April 27, 2023, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested \$1,878,600, including: (a) the transfer of \$62,300 GPR from the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental appropriation to the law enforcement technology appropriation under s. 20.370(3)(ca); (b) the transfer of \$104,000 environmental SEG to the law enforcement technology appropriation under s. 20.370(3)(cq); and (c) the transfer of \$1,712,300 conservation SEG to the law enforcement technology appropriation under s. 20.370(3)(cr).

BACKGROUND

The DNR Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection (PSRP) is responsible for enforcement of state laws regarding fish and wildlife, motorized recreation and environmental quality, as well as for ensuring public safety at DNR recreational properties. DNR law enforcement personnel may respond to incidents in coordination with other law enforcement agencies. Currently, DNR law enforcement staff use several different systems to issue and track citations, develop criminal reports, track and inventory evidence, dispatch and locate wardens and other law enforcement, and report uniform crime data.

As law enforcement has become more reliant on mobile and cellular technology, some of PSRP's practices and databases, including public safety records management, have become outdated. DNR reports that the industry standard for law enforcement records management is to have integrated software that is able to record and track investigations and law enforcement events from start to end. PSRP's existing public safety records management system uses several different programs that are not integrated.

2021 Assembly Bill 68/2021 Senate Bill 111, the 2021-23 executive budget bill, proposed

providing \$1,500,000, including \$62,300 GPR, \$93,400 environmental SEG and \$1,344,300 conservation SEG to create an integrated records management system for PSRP. However, the Department was unable to provide detailed estimates for the cost of developing the system. 2021 Act 58, the 2021-23 biennial budget, appropriated \$62,300 GPR in the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental appropriation, allowing DNR to request funding to develop the database after developing additional technical specifications. In 2022, DNR released a request for proposals (RFP) that solicited technical details and cost estimates from contractors to develop the records management system.

ANALYSIS

PSRP currently uses a variety of ad hoc systems to track cases, investigations, and citations, as well as to coordinate with other state and local law enforcement agencies. DNR reports that a number of PSRP's records management tools were not intended for law enforcement purposes. For instance, DNR reports that incident reports are written in Microsoft Word and SharePoint. These systems lack security features and cannot be integrated with systems used by state and federal Justice Departments and law enforcement agencies.

DNR's RFP solicited project proposals from software contractors for a law enforcement records management system that would provide DNR wardens with a single integrated system for case management, dispatch, evidence collection, and workload management. The RFP outlined minimum software requirements including security protocols, other agency databases that must be integrated with the system, and network support. The RFP noted that DNR has minimal technical capacity and emphasized that vendors should have technical experience and a track record of providing 24-hour support for the system.

Four proposals were submitted to the agency in July, 2022. DNR evaluated the proposals using a rubric that assigned points for cost, technical features and system support. The lowest responsible bid was submitted by ProPhoenix Corporation. The proposal scored highly in its ability to be integrated with existing DNR computer systems and security. DNR also valued the extensive experience ProPhoenix has with other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies. If the Committee approves the DNR request, the Department would enter into a contract with the corporation to develop the records management system over a four-year period. The contract would specify certain deliverables and cost commitments each year. The table shows how funding under the contract would be allocated from each fund source.

Records Management System Contract Summary, by Fund Source

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>GPR</u>	<u>Environmental SEG</u>	<u>Conservation SEG</u>	<u>Total</u>
2022-23	\$62,300	\$57,600	\$947,900	\$1,067,800
2023-24		15,100	249,400	264,500
2024-25		15,500	254,700	270,200
2025-26		<u>15,800</u>	<u>260,300</u>	<u>276,100</u>
Total	\$62,300	\$104,000	\$1,712,300	\$1,878,600

The Committee could approve the DNR request to release \$62,300 GPR from the JFC supplemental appropriation and provide \$1,005,500 SEG (\$57,600 environmental SEG and \$947,900 conservation SEG) as one-time funding in 2022-23 to fund the first year of the contract [Alternative 1]. This would allow DNR to fund the initial development of the records management system.

It should be noted that after entering into the records management system contract, DNR would be required to make additional payments under the contract in subsequent fiscal years. If the Committee provides SEG funding for only the first year of the contract, DNR would be required to either fund contractual obligations through base-level appropriations, or request additional funds under s. 13.10 of the statutes. Alternatively, the Committee could approve the DNR request to release \$62,300 GPR from the JFC supplemental appropriation and provide \$1,816,300 SEG (\$104,000 environmental SEG and \$1,712,300 conservation SEG) as one-time funding to fund the duration of the records management system contract [Alternative 2].

It should be noted that the under either alternative, the Committee would transfer funds to DNR's biennial law enforcement technology procurement appropriations. These alternatives lapse their unencumbered balances on June 30 of each odd-numbered fiscal year. If DNR were unable to encumber funds by the close of the fiscal year, the Department would likely need to submit a request to the Committee for additional funding under s. 13.10 of the statutes.

If the Committee takes no action [Alternative 3], PSRP would likely lack sufficient funding to fund the system development contract.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the DNR request to release \$62,300 GPR from the JFC supplemental appropriation and provide \$1,005,500 SEG as one-time funding to fund the first year of a contract to develop a law enforcement records management system.
2. Approve the DNR request to release \$62,300 GPR from the JFC supplemental appropriation and provide \$1,816,300 SEG as one-time funding to fund a contract to develop a law enforcement records management system.
3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Eric Hepler