



Roy Cooper, Governor

Todd Ishee, Secretary

Memorandum

To: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
From: Todd Ishee, Secretary 
Subject: Report on Request for Proposals for Technology Upgrades
Date: October 30, 2023

Pursuant to S.L. 2023-134, Section 19B.5.(b), The Department of Adult Correction shall, in consultation with the vendor, report on the expenditure of funds awarded to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than October 1 of each year on expenditure of the funds awarded for products and/or services capable of:

- 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.

The report required from subsection (b) of this section shall include, at a minimum, each of the following:

1. A timeline of the deployment of products and services
2. An explanation of the implementation of the awarded contract
3. An accounting of the extent to which tracking and blocking technologies were able to successfully track and block phones and wireless devices in State prisons.
4. An accounting of the extent to which the private long-term evolution network met the needs of State prisons.
5. An accounting of the extent to which the virtual bank accounts of inmates were utilized by inmates, their friends, and their family members.

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Two vendors were awarded with contracts regarding technology for blocked and tracked wireless devices. Listed below are the vendors and total amounts awarded:

1. ViaPath – Total Award = \$10,728,151.77

b. ShawnTech Mobile Cellular Scans

2. Securus – Total Award = \$5,410,162.08

Currently the Managed Access systems at both Bertie CI and Pasquotank CI are still under construction and are not operational. The projected start date for Bertie CI is May 6, 2024, and the projected start date for Pasquotank is May 20, 2024.

At this time, the Department is waiting for a corrected invoice from Securus to be issued. When the correct invoice is received, the Department will make the initial payment for the hardware and services rendered so far.

Accounting of Private LTE Network:

No contract was awarded for private LTE networks.

Accounting of Virtual Bank Accounts:

The Virtual Bank Account portion of the RFP was awarded to ViaPath Technologies. The cost of the contract is \$0.00 as it is a no cost contract and profit is gathered from fees transferred to the depositors.

ViaPath Banking Services started on August 1st as planned. During the first month, the system experienced service outages that were immediately repaired. During this time, customers were able to send money to Offenders via the ViaPath Connect Network app, by phone or online at ViaPath's Connect Network website. A fourth optional way to transfer funds by Western Union was delayed due to a delay in the approval of necessary licensing until August 20th.

During the month of August ViaPath reported the following statistics for total payments by portal were as follows: 59% - Mobile App, 38% - Website, 2% - Telephone and 1% by money order. ViaPath reported that they processed \$3,347,203 worth of deposits to offender's accounts during this time period.
