



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to approve the Durham County Board of Elections request to acquire rental laptops from Electro Rent dba Rush Computer Rentals. Service will include rental laptops for processing voters during One-stop and Election day.

One-Stop Dates:

September 18, 2019 – October 4, 2019
October 16, 2019 – November 2, 2019
February 12, 2020 – February 29, 2020
April or May 2020 – Second Primary (if necessary)

Election Day Dates:

October 8, 2019 – Municipal Primary
November 5, 2019 – Municipal Election
March 3, 2020 – Primary Election
April or May 2020 – Second Primary (if necessary)

The total cost of the request is: \$92,400.00.

Also, the Durham County Board of Elections would like to request the following:

The Durham County Board of Elections requests the BOCC to approve the contract and give the Manager authority to execute the contract in the amount not to exceed \$92,400.

The Durham County Board of Elections requests that BOCC give the Manager authority to execute any other related contracts such as amendments within the budgeted appropriations, not to exceed \$92,400.

Background/Justification

This request is being made to ensure that voters are being processed in a timely and efficient manner during One-Stop and Election day. The laptops will hold the electronic pollbook provided by the State Board of Elections, which allows precinct officials to process voters in a timely fashion. The alternative to using laptops would be paper pollbooks that require a manual process. With a manual process in place, there is more room for error and the voter would spend more time at the registration table. Due to the continual upgrades, maintenance, and requirements of the State Board of Elections related to security, county IS&T has agreed with the recommendation to rent laptops moving forward. The laptops previously used and currently owned by the Durham County Board of Elections were not purchased in conjunction with IS&T and therefore do not meet certain security specifications. Funds for this implementation were approved by the Board of County Commissioners in the FY 19-20 recommended budget submitted by the Durham County Board of Elections.



Policy Impact

The laptop rentals from Electro Rent dba Rush Computer Rentals will keep the Durham County Board of Elections in compliance with N.C. General Statute §§163A-1137 (a) if using electronic poll books. This statute covers checking registration and having the voter sign an Authorization to Vote Form. In conjunction with the poll book provided by the State Board of Elections, the laptops will be used to ensure that voters are duly registered, facilitate the vote process, print Authorization to Vote documents and log voter history for post-election reconciliation.

This request is also consistent with Goal 5 of the county strategic plan.

Procurement Background

Type of purchase

- ☒ Goods
- ☒ Services
- ☐ Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- ☐ Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes ☒ No ☐

Goods: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$90,000$

Services: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $> \$40,000$

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$500,000$

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- ☐ Sole source exemption
- ☐ Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- ☐ State and federal contract exemption
- ☐ Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- ☐ Other (please explain)

Fiscal Impact

Although this implementation is a new initiative requiring additional funds, it is less expensive than the alternative of purchasing up to 400 computers that must be managed and stored by the Durham County Board of Elections. This also eliminates the need for concern regarding standard replacement cycles for computers that are deemed beyond standard usage expectancy. Additionally, these laptops will have the latest system updates as well as encrypted hard drives. The expense amount will vary depending on the number of election events per year.



Recommendation

Due to the sensitive nature of Elections and the extent of accuracy that is required for ensuring that voters are duly registered and processed to receive a ballot, we hope that the Commissioners will approve the continued use of Rush Computer Rentals per the terms contained herein. Rush Computer rentals has provided secure and outstanding service to the Board of Elections since 2018 and is accustomed to our special needs.