

Solano County

Phase 3 – Project Documentation Plan - Staff Report

Summary

Solano County	Amounts
Initial Allocation Amount	\$2,297,314.22
Phase 1 - September 23, 2005	
Total System Cost	\$1,758,044.00
VMB Funding Award Amount	\$1,318,533.00
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$439,511.00
Amount Dispersed to County	1,251,154.50
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$1,046,159.72
Phase 2 - August 9, 2006	
Total System Cost	\$1,636,761.88
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$914,332.41
County 3:1 Match Amount	\$304,777.47
Amount Dispersed to County	895,582.41
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$150,577.31
Phase 3 - May 10, 2022	
Total System Cost	\$97,162.00
Staff Recommended Funding Award Amount	\$72,871.50
County Actual Match Amount	\$24,290.50
Remaining Initial Formula Allocation	
Remaining Allocation Amount	\$77,705.81
Remaining County Match Amount	\$25,901.94

Phase 3 Voting System:

Hardware:

Elevate Sorter VBM computer and server enhancements (hardware & software)

Software:

Software enhancements to support 2D barcodes for future VBM sorting

Vendor:

Fluence Technologies, LLC

Acquisition Schedule:

- February 2022: Delivery of hardware – completed
- March 2022: Installation of sorter and server enhancements – in progress
- March 2022: Staff training on enhancements
- June 2022: Implementation of enhancements for the June 2022 Primary Election

Project Completion Date:

- June 2022

Staff Report:

Solano County’s Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan meets the requirements for completeness.

In 2005, in Phase I of its voting modernization strategy, the County was reimbursed by the Board for Elections Systems and Software (ES&S) optical scan ballot counter hardware and UNITY software.

In 2006, in Phase 2, the County was reimbursed for ES&S AutoMark Voter Assist Terminals, additional ballot scanners, a ballot on demand printer and UNITY software.

In 2015, the County modernized its Vote by Mail (VBM) processing equipment with the purchase of a Bell & Howell (B&H) sorter with non-VMB funds. This equipment scans all incoming VBM ballots.

The County has seen continued growth in the use of VBM. In the 2016 General Election, 46% of County voters voted in person at polling places; for the 2020 General Election, 11% of the County’s voters voted in person. For the Gubernatorial Recall Election, that number fell to 10%.

For Phase 3 of its voting modernization strategy, in order to handle the increasing volume of VBM ballots efficiently, the County is requesting reimbursement funds for the purchase of enhancements to its Fluence (formerly B&H) Elevate VBM sorter. The new hardware and software will allow for the implementation of future security improvements and to utilize higher-speed connections. The new imaging hardware augments the tab detection cameras and lasers, which drive critical VBM sorting functions and image processing.

The County has not received prior funding related to the items requested in this PDP.

The County has provided signed vendor contracts for the items requested.

Staff Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that Solano County’s Phase 3 Project Documentation Plan be approved, and a Funding Award Letter be issued in the amount of \$72,871.50.