

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE
Forty-sixth Legislature – Second Regular Session

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON COMPUTER POLICY

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, November 30, 2004
Senate Hearing Room 1 -- 2:30 p.m.

Chairman Tibshraeny called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. and attendance was noted by the secretary.

Members Present

Senator Dean Martin
Senator Jay Tibshraeny, Cochair

Representative Ken Clark
Representative Tom Prezelski
Representative Mark Thompson
Representative Bob Robson, Cochair

Members Absent

Senator Ken Chevront
Senator Harry Mitchell

Speakers

Mike Braun, Executive Director, Legislative Council
Steve West, System Manager, Computer Services

OPENING REMARKS:

Chairman Tibshraeny reminded Members that the Committee met last year. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the next phase of the computer program. He advised that Members are in the process of getting their laptops while assistants are getting new and improved processors. He said he has heard comments that the new equipment is a major improvement.

UPDATE ON NEW COMPUTER ROLLOUT:

Mike Braun, Executive Director, Legislative Council, testified it was at the beginning of this year that the Committee recommended to proceed on the following four areas (Attachment 1):

- Email server upgrade.
- Desktop and laptop upgrades.
- Software licensing.

- Printer upgrades.

Mr. Braun advised that the total cost for the 1/13/04 computer policy recommendation was \$425,777, of which \$200,000 was appropriated during the legislative session. Since the amount appropriated did not cover the cost of the system upgrades, some decisions had to be made at the beginning of the current fiscal year. Through negotiation of lower pricing and integration costs, the actual cost for Email server upgrade came to \$108,209. The savings was not enough to implement the program, so the length of the lease was changed from a three-year to a four-year lease. In addition, printer upgrades were postponed temporarily. This allowed completion of this portion of the project for \$309,862. The difference of \$109,000 between what was appropriated and the cost to implement the program came in part from money Legislative Council saved by not having to pay the losing attorneys fees for the ballot analysis.

Chairman Tibshraeny asked whether the printer upgrades will happen in the next phase. Mr. Braun hopes that if some portion of Legislative Council's money is freed up, it will be earmarked for the printer upgrades; otherwise, it will be necessary to go through the appropriations process next year.

Chairman Tibshraeny related that it was a better financial arrangement to sign a 48-month lease rather than purchase the computers.

Senator Martin queried whether there are any provisions for an amount to be set aside each year to cover the next four-year lease when the current lease is up. Mr. Braun responded there is nothing in law that the \$200,000 will continue to be appropriated. He assumes that when there is an obligation for a four-year lease, the annual \$200,000 appropriation will continue at the same level. Legislative Council will be responsible for the printers if the Legislature does not appropriate that amount.

Representative Clark asked the number of computers included in the lease.

Steve West, System Manager, Computer Services, replied that the lease covers 491 systems. On the lease question raised by Cochair Tibshraeny, he clarified it is a lease-to-own, so at the end of four years, the State does own them.

In reply to Chairman Tibshraeny, Mr. West stated there is no trade-in value from the manufacturers. He noted that five years ago, surplus computers were sold to employees.

Representative Robson questioned whether the reason for getting rid of the old computers was because the licensing agreements had expired. Mr. West answered in the affirmative. Another reason was the failure rate on the old hardware.

Representative Robson advised that some Members have made inquiries with respect to purchasing the old computers and they have been told the computers would have to be stripped down because of the licensing issue. He opined there is no licensing issue if there is no agreement. He asked whether there is any way to accommodate the purchase without removing everything from the computers. Mr. West replied in the negative. He said a program is run through the computer to completely erase the operating system because of confidentiality and security purposes.

Representative Thompson questioned what platform the new system will be using. Mr. West replied the operating system is Windows XP Professional.

In reply to Representative Clark, Chairman Tibshraeny said the laptops have wireless capability. Mr. West clarified that the laptops come with a wireless antennae.

Mr. West reported that 550 mailboxes have been converted, involving new hardware and software as part of the exchange Email system. About 304 desktop and laptop upgrades have been completed over the last four weeks and Members' laptops are currently being converted. The software licensing is Microsoft Select and will cost \$62,606 for three years. Printer upgrades are being looked into. He said he will update the prices based on the spreadsheet put together in January and come up with a number that can be used for budgeting purposes. He advised he will put together some pricing for new monitors, probably the flat panel, to give more desk space.

Mr. West revealed there is a consolidation going on for the audio-video system. Both the Senate and the House have their own independent systems and the production is drastically different. The new system will merge both systems and will be run out of the Senate basement.

Mr. West brought up the server issue. He advised that the Senate and the House have their own web servers that were put up independently of Computer Services. He said it would be preferable to consolidate that, placing it under the maintenance system, so he will be pricing that out.

Representative Robson wondered about space on the server so Members could have a web page similar to the Congressional model. Mr. West said he would be open to suggestions on that issue.

Representative Robson pointed out that Arizona State University (ASU) has one of the largest server networks in the State. Their system is used by other organizations and that could be the direction the Legislature might want to go if more space is needed.

Senator Martin said that with consolidation there is no reason not to have expanded Member pages. He queried whether the existing web server will be upgraded. Mr. West replied that was already done in a prior year. If the issue is space, he said there is no reason why it cannot be handled. He thinks it is a good idea to look at the alternatives and maybe partner with ASU.

Representative Robson asked that this issue be explored. He said it might be a topic for another time.

Representative Prezelski noted that the software license is for three years. He asked if it is assumed that at the end of the three years there will be upgrades on the software or whether a new agreement will have to be negotiated. Mr. West advised that the agreement is negotiated by the State Purchasing office. Within the three year period, if a new version comes out, the State is entitled to it at no cost. At the end of three years, the software is still available to be used; however, if an upgrade is desired, a new license will have to be purchased.

Chairman Tibshraeny asked Mr. West for his recommendations. Mr. West suggested that printers and monitor upgrades be considered. Chairman Tibshraeny concurred with the recommendations.

Representative Prezelski noted that monitor technology has not changed significantly over time. He asked whether the thought is to get better monitors. Mr. West answered that the existing monitors are about four years old and are starting to fail. The driving force would be to replace aging equipment with either tube-style monitors or new flat screens.

Chairman Tibshraeny recommended scheduling one more meeting before the holidays to come up with recommendations in order to submit a letter of recommendation to Leadership. He suggested that the issues of web server, monitors and printers be on the next agenda.

Representative Robson suggested that he and Chairman Tibshraeny could send a letter to Members informing them where the Committee is on this process and asking for comments. He feels there should be more dialog relative to this issue.

Chairman Tibshraeny queried whether one more meeting is needed. Representative Robson prefers that the letter be sent to Members first. A meeting can be then be scheduled early in the Session.

Representative Robson asked Mr. West and Mr. Braun to report on the failure rate of printers and screens.

Representative Clark would like to know the repair costs of some of the monitors as opposed to purchasing new monitors. In addition, he thinks consideration be given to the relationship between self-edited websites and clean elections. To that point, Senator Martin pointed out the reference was not to clean elections but to expanding the one-page website. He submitted that having the ability to have more than a picture and a short text may be advantageous in some situations.

Senator Martin questioned the timeline on the upgrade for the House TV system and the new server. Mr. West replied that the cameras and sound system will come online before Session.

Senator Martin mentioned that some cheap printers can be purchased; however, the toner cartridges have to be replaced more often, and that is where the money is made. He commented that it might be less expensive to spend a little more on high capacity printers because of other associated costs. He said he would like information on the capacity of the printers and the cost per sheet comparatively.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:10p.m.

Joanne Bell, Committee Secretary
March 7, 2017

(Original minutes, attachments and tape on file in the Chief Clerk's Office)