

Department of Information Technology  
Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget

***TESTIMONY OF***  
*Michael G. Leahy, Secretary*

***Senate Budget and Taxation Committee***  
*Capital Budget Subcommittee*  
*The Honorable Douglas Peters, Chair*  
*February 11, 2020*

***House Appropriations Committee***  
*Capital Budget Subcommittee*  
*The Honorable Mark S. Chang, Chair*  
*February 13, 2020*

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the committee. I am Mike Leahy, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Information Technology. I am joined by Norman Farley, Chief of Public Safety Communications. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this testimony to the committee. I would also like to thank Patrick Frank, our DLS analyst, for all his hard work. The Department of Information Technology has one Capital project on which we are currently working and that is the Maryland FiRST 700 MHz Public Safety Communications System. This is a statewide, interoperable radio system for First Responders that I am happy to report the build-out is progressing and the system's performance has been outstanding. To date, four of the five phases have been completed. Phase 5, which includes the National Capitol Region and Southern Maryland counties, is in progress and should be operational by the end of CY 2020. Maryland FiRST has been successful in providing interoperable, mission critical voice communications and is being widely adopted by the public safety community. Currently, the system has over 24,000 primary users and over 41,000 interoperable users from over 70 different State agencies, counties, Federal and neighboring state jurisdictions.

Our FY 2021 Capital budget request is for \$9,613,000. \$8,000,000 of this funding will allow us to proceed with the T1 to Ethernet conversion which I briefed the Committee on during my testimony for the past two years. \$1,613,000 will go towards our coverage improvement program which addresses radio coverage gaps that have been identified in parts of the State. The original coverage goal for the project was 95% on-street portable (an officer with a hand held radio) coverage. This follow-on program will look at ensuring any coverage gaps are filled and to provide additional in-building coverage for schools and malls, particularly in the eight counties that use Maryland FiRST as their primary public Safety communications system. This will support the public safety response to incidents, which may include active shooter situations.



**Larry Hogan** | Governor  
**Boyd K. Rutherford** | Lt. Governor  
**Michael G. Leahy** | Secretary  
**Lance Schine** | Deputy Secretary

In addition, we are requesting advance approval for \$2,685,000 in general obligation bonds for FY 2022 and \$2,650,000 in general obligation bonds for FY 2023 to complete the T1 to Ethernet conversion.

We thank the Committee for its consideration and ask that our FY 2021 Capital Budget request be approved. My staff and I stand ready to answer your questions.

Thank you.