



State of Maryland
Department of Information Technology

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Lieutenant Governor

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Department of Information Technology
Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable Douglas Peters, Chair
February 9, 2021

House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
The Honorable Ben Barns, Chair
February 9, 2021



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 systems performance has been outstanding. Maryland FiRST withstood Tropical Storm Isaias with relatively minor impacts, performing well and handling the spike in radio traffic. An award-winning system, Maryland FiRST was recently recognized as the first-place winner for the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Information Technology Recognition Award in the category of Information Communications Technology Initiatives. The NASCIO IT Recognition awards showcase the use of information technology to address critical business problems, more easily connect citizens to their government, improve business processes and create new opportunities that improve the lives of citizens. 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 September 2021. 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 25,000 primary users and over 44,000 interoperable users from over 70 different State agencies, counties, Federal and neighboring state jurisdictions.

Our FY 2022 Capital budget request is for \$5,300,000. \$2,685,000 of this funding will allow us to continue with the T1 to Ethernet conversion, which I



briefed the Committee on during my testimony for the past three years and requested that this funding be an advance approval. The Ethernet contract modification with Motorola was approved by BPW in January 2020. The Ethernet design work should be completed by this summer, with the physical conversion starting soon afterwards. \$2,615,000 will go towards our Coverage Improvement Program which addresses radio coverage gaps that have been identified in various 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. The two proposed new radio sites for FY 2022 are the new Maryland State Police barrack in LaVale, Allegany County and the Swallow Falls area of Garrett County.

In addition, we are requesting advance approval for \$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 2022 Capital Budget request be approved. My staff and I stand ready to answer your questions.

Thank you.