

M Management Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 23, 2008

Item: 2008-105

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: April 15, 2008

Subject: 2008 Technology Hardware Replacement Procurement

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the purchase of up to \$488,000 of personal computer and related hardware in support of Information Systems' (IS) hardware replacement plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

In a brief presentation, CIO Dave Hinrichs summarized the rationale for the Council's replacement policy for personal computing hardware and peripherals. Since the useful life of this hardware is four years, the Council plans to replace 315 workstations and monitors, 55 laptops, and 70 printers in order to support the appropriate operating system, software version level and application complexity. This schedule also evens out budget expenditures from year to year.

In response to questions, Mr. Hinrichs pointed out that this equipment is typically purchased from vendors on the State contract and is procured in phases as appropriate for the schedule, since the three year warranty begins at the time of purchase. Not all personal computing equipment is on a four-year-replacement plan because some of it is dedicated to a specific purpose that does not cause its useful life to expire as quickly as other equipment. The Council uses the Windows XP Professional operating system and is not planning to move to Windows Vista due to the mixed reviews being reported in the industry. This procurement does not include PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants like Blackberries) since they are both phone and computing devices whose total cost across the Council is not significant at this time.

The Management Committee unanimously approved this proposal at its April 9, 2008 meeting.

Management Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008-105

Meeting date: April 9, 2008

Metropolitan Council April 23, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: April 2, 2008
Subject: 2008 Technology Hardware Replacement Procurement
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented: David Hinrichs, CIO Information Systems, 675-602-1443
Division/Department: All

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the purchase of up to \$488,000 of personal computer and related hardware in support of Information Systems' (IS) hardware replacement plan.

Background

The Council has adopted a program to replace personal computer workstations, monitors, laptops and printers on a standard rotation – four years for most computers. This replacement plan is consistent with best practice recommendations of the Gartner Group, a respected, leading provider of research and analysis for the information technology industry.

Rationale

Computer technology is constantly improving speed, functionality and capacity. New or upgraded operating systems and applications take advantage of these new capabilities and the newer software may not function on older hardware. The systematic replacement of old hardware allows the Council to even-out costs related to the replacement of personal computers.

The Council's Business Divisions and IS have developed leveling plans to avoid extreme budget fluctuations as a result of the replacement program. Technology hardware not replaced on a rotation, and replaced because it is no longer supported, quits functioning or is incapable of supporting a required application, results in extreme budget fluctuations in years when hardware needs to be replaced, often without prior warning.

Funding

Purchases will generally be made from the State Contract or through a Council-run competitive process. Funding for this hardware is included in the Council's operating budget.

Technology Hardware Replacement 2008

	Count	Cost
Workstations	315	\$ 205,000
Monitors	315	80,000
Laptops	55	94,000
Printers	70	77,000
Hardware Cost		\$ 456,000
Sales Taxes (7%)		32,000
2008 Hardware Refresh Total		\$ 488,000

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition exists.