

M Management Committee
Metropolitan Council meeting of June 22, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date

Prepared: June 16, 2011

Subject: Approval for Interagency Agreement with State of Minnesota,
Office of Enterprise Technology for Computer Room Services

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to extend the current interagency agreement with the State of Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) for computer hosting services for two years, in the amount of \$490,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Dave Hinrichs, CIO and Pancho Henderson, IS Manager II appeared before the Committee. Pancho indicated that the Council created an Interagency Agreement for computer hosting services with OET when it moved into the facility in 2006. That agreement has proven to be cost beneficial and expires in October 2011. A two year extension is being requested to allow the Council to evaluate the direction the State of Minnesota is taking on consolidating State computer centers as well as the future computer hosting needs of the Council in relation to continuity of critical operations services. Staff will evaluate and determine the most appropriate course of action to meet its needs for the future during that two year period.

Committee member Chavez asked a question about how cloud computing would affect this issue. Dave responded that cloud computing comes in many different forms and Information Services staff are evaluating the risks and/or advantages associated with that type of outsourcing service. As an example, OET offers the Microsoft Office suite as a cloud service from Microsoft, and is exploring a vendor hosted computer center solution (a form of cloud computing), but has not awarded a contract at this time. Member Melander asked whether cloud services were offered by State, national or international firms and expressed a preference for keeping such services with local firms. Procurement requirements surrounding such a preference will be explored.

The Management Committee approved this request as proposed on June 15, 2011 for inclusion on the consent agenda of the Metropolitan Council meeting on June 22, 2011.

M Management Committee
Meeting date: June 15, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: May 31, 2011
Subject: Approval for Interagency Agreement with State of Minnesota, Office of Enterprise Technology for Computer Room Services
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference:
Staff Prepared/Presented: Dave Hinrichs 651-602-1443, Pancho Henderson 651-602-1627
Division/Department: All

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to extend the current interagency agreement with the State of Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) for computer hosting services for two years, in the amount of \$490,000.

Background

When the Council moved to its current location in 2006, the decision was made to house the Council's servers with OET, (Business Item 2005-198). The off-site hosting of servers has improved the availability of our servers and increased security over the last 5 years. Our current contract will expire October 3, 2011.

Rationale

Based on the following considerations, we recommend a two year extension of the existing agreement:

- OET is in the process of consolidating services and has issued an RFP for an additional site for server co-location. The co-location option they select may significantly enhance their service options.
- Development of our Continuity of Operations Plans will help inform the Council on the most appropriate course for server hosting to ensure its critical services are available on an ongoing basis.
- Staff will evaluate the Council's hosting options and decide if an RFP is the appropriate course of action to meet its needs for the future.

Funding

Funding is included in our operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Off-site hosting of Council servers has been beneficial to the Council. There is no known opposition.