



MEMORANDUM

Legislative Post Audit

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TO: Members, Legislative Post Audit Committee
FROM: Katrin Osterhaus, IT Audit Manager
DATE: May 05, 2021
SUBJECT: Automated Biometric Identification System ABIS IT Project - Update

Our primary objective in monitoring IT projects is to identify when a project is at risk of failure due to scope, schedule, cost, or quality problems. By communicating our concerns to the agency, other stakeholders, and legislative bodies, we hope to help improve the project's health. Our secondary objective is to evaluate whether monitored IT projects have adequately planned for security controls.

We have monitored the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) project since January 2020. We have published four quarterly reports so far. This update covers the first quarter of 2021. It is important to note this project is still in the planning stage for state project monitoring purposes. Based on its December 2020 quarterly report, the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) is not tracking this as an active project yet.

Project Scope is in Satisfactory status. As described in our last update, Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) staff have finalized the scope of the project and have documented it in the Request For Proposal (RFP) published June 15, 2020. The RFP and resulting contract award for the new ABIS system locked in the project scope.

Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) Policy 2510 requires external Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) for projects exceeding \$10 million over a 3-year life cycle. The ABIS project is not expected to reach that cost threshold. However, KBI officials told us the extra oversight will reduce project risk and improve the project's success. KBI's RFP for an IV&V vendor was published in early February 2021 and closed March 5, 2021. At the end of this monitoring quarter, agency staff were analyzing responses from several prospective vendors.

Project Cost is in Satisfactory status. As noted in our last update, the latest available internal cost estimate was almost \$8 million before the agency received bids. KBI secured \$6.8 million in funding from SB 66 which ensured the project could move forward. Officials told us that the final estimated project cost will include the IV&V cost, as well as associated KITO service charges. During this quarter, stakeholders were in the process of finalizing the contract. Therefore, a final cost estimate is not yet publicly available.

Project Security planning is in Satisfactory status – no changes from report ending December 31. The agency's planning project, request for proposal, and draft contract

artifacts included security and governance requirements for the system. We are not aware of any changes that would affect the security planning of the project.

Project Schedule is Caution status. During this quarter, KBI pushed back the contract award deadline, but tightened its project completion deadline.

- **KBI has delayed the project award deadline by more than 3 months.** The original goal was to award the contract in July 2020, which was delayed to end-January 2021. On January 28, 2021, the Procurement Negotiation Committee determined its intent to award the ABIS contract to the selected vendor. However, the target contract award deadline was delayed to May 2021. This means the project has not yet entered its execution phase. Staff told us that contract development and negotiation requires special knowledge. For this, KBI relies on leadership staff since no dedicated positions exist for this work. This resource constraint contributed to contract award delays. Staff also said they extended the contract development timeline to ensure all specifications, terms, and conditions identified during negotiations are included. Officials told us taking the extra contract development time should reduce project risk and was necessary considering the long-term impact the project has on the entire state.
- **KBI shortened the estimated project completion deadline by almost 5 months.** The latest project milestones show KBI adjusted the anticipated project completion deadline from mid-April 2023 to end-November 2022. KBI plans to have both old and new systems operational for several months before the new system goes live.

We consider the schedule to be in caution status because the compressed execution phase may not be realistic. The contract, including those timelines, is not yet finalized. As this project enters its execution phase, it will be important to stay on schedule to reduce the risk of depending on the old fingerprinting system past 2022.