



MEMORANDUM

Legislative Post Audit

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TO: Members, Legislative Post Audit Committee
FROM: Katrin Osterhaus, IT Audit Manager
DATE: August 30, 2021
SUBJECT: Automated Biometric Identification System ABIS IT Project - Update

Our primary aim 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, legislators, and other stakeholders 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 Kansas Bureau of Investigation's Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) project since January 2020. This update covers the April-July 2021 period. Until this period, this project was still in the planning stage for state project monitoring purposes. Based on its June 2021 quarterly report, the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) is not tracking this as an active project yet.

Project Scope is in Satisfactory status. On July 8, 2021, the KBI has signed a contract for the new ABIS system, which 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 does not reach that cost threshold. However, the KBI contracted with a vendor for IV&V services. That contract (also signed July 8) contains the detailed scope for the project's IV&V process. KBI officials told us the extra oversight will reduce project risk and improve the project's chances for success.

Project Cost is in Satisfactory status. As noted in our last update, KBI secured \$6.8 million in funding from SB 66 which ensured the project could move forward. The executed contract lists the project's cost as \$4,245,000. The IV&V contract price is \$157,500. The KBI has several additional costs associated with the project. This includes the cost of a project manager, the hardware platform, and KITO fees for the two contracts. These bring the combined project budget to about \$5.5 million. Lastly, the ABIS contract has an 18-month warranty from the time the system is deployed. After the warranty period, the contract allows KBI to get maintenance support for about \$100,000 a year for up to 15 years.

Project Security planning is in Satisfactory status. The signed contract for the ABIS project 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. The project is expected to be completed by early November 2022, based on the milestones listed in the executed contract. KBI plans to

have both old and new systems operational for several months before the new system goes live.

The finalized contract allowed 18 months for execution, from early May 2021 to early November 2022. However, the contract was signed in July 2021, which shrinks the available execution time to 16 months. Even though the vendor has agreed to the more aggressive milestones, those dates may need to be adjusted due to the delayed contract award date. As this project enters its execution phase, we will closely monitor the vendor's adherence to the project schedule. Lastly, KBI officials were able to require vendor support for the existing fingerprinting system until go-live at no-cost if the vendor fails to meet the planned schedule. This reduces the risk of depending on the old fingerprinting system once it reaches its end of life.