

Item Title: Award Contracts for Finance and Budget Systems Software

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Awards separate contracts to Accenture LLP for software implementation services, Workday Inc. for Financial Systems Software, and Euna (Sherpa) for Budget Systems Software.**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute this contract subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners approves all multi-year contracts.

Background: Most large corporations and governments use an Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP) to conduct human resource, financial, payroll, budget and other business functions. ERPs facilitate the sharing of commonly used data for different purposes. Because these systems are so large and require years to implement, organizations must make long-term commitments to a platform.

Wake County implemented its current ERP system in 2007. In recent years, staff have determined that the system does not meet current or future expectations and service needs. Over the past two years, staff and consultant BerryDunn conducted a current state analysis which informed a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify a long-term replacement ERP. The replacement project began with the human resources module, then expanded to a RFP for finance and budget. A cross-departmental team in association with BerryDunn built a technical specifications and RFP document that encompassed the Financial and Budget requirements to serve the County. One RFP was posted in January 2024 with the proposers having the ability to bid on both finance & budget systems, or to submit a bid for only one component.

Eleven proposals were submitted with nine proposing a finance & budget system and with two proposals submitting a budget only component. With consultant assistance, the cross-departmental team evaluated and scored the proposals on such criteria as functional requirements, technical specifications and implementation approach. The evaluation team recommends the Board of Commissioners approve a multi-year contract with Accenture LLP to serve as the software implementer, Workday Inc. for Financial Systems Software, and Sherpa for Budget Systems Software.

Strategic Plan: This action supports routine County operations and procedures.

Fiscal Impact: The recurring cost of the contracts and one-time implementation costs are appropriated in the operating and capital budgets respectively. Staff do not request additional appropriation with this action.

Staff anticipate long-term cost savings with the new ERP. The current system has a recurring operating cost of roughly \$3.5 million per year. The new system's annual contract cost will be roughly \$2.0 million and cost about \$8.5 million to implement. Over the first 10 years of use, staff anticipate cost savings of approximately \$6 million.

Additional Information:

The current Finance and Budget system was originally implemented in 2007, with system upgrades in 2018 and 2021. The current system is used today to record financial transactions including accounts payable, revenue collection, general ledger activity, procurement, and chart of accounts maintenance. Additional systems are also used to support County finance operations including PaymentWorks for vendor management, Gravity Financial Reporting, and Bonfire for electronic bidding. The current budget system provides management of the annual budget process including base budget creation, expansion process, and budget book creation. As the County continues to grow, the need for a scalable and robust system grows, as well. In addition, it is the County's goal to reduce the number of shadow systems used currently and instead, streamline processes and improve automation.

The County retained BerryDunn McNeil & Parker, LLC (BerryDunn) in 2022 to assist with assessing the current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system to identify the County's software needs. After extensive planning with BerryDunn, the County's Project Team elected to proceed with a best-of-breed strategy and a subsequent separate system selections (Finance, Budget, HR).

After BerryDunn was retained by the County, a project plan was developed. This included the following phases: Phase 1 – Project Planning and Ongoing Management, Phase 2 – Assessment and System Review, and Phase 3 – RFP (Request for Proposal) Development and Selection. Through this process, the County was able to develop specific requirements and released the RFP to the vendor community through a competitive bid process. Eleven companies submitted proposals for the Finance/Budget Systems project. With consultant assistance, a cross-departmental team evaluated and scored the proposals on functional requirements, technical specifications, and implementation approach and recommend the Workday/Sherpa systems to be implemented by Accenture LLP.

Accenture is a leading professional services company and the largest Workday partner with government organizations, having finished 45+ Go-Lives. They have a strong presence in North Carolina with over 2,000 employees statewide (733,000 globally) and offices in Raleigh/Charlotte. They have proposed a strong implementation plan and

services that will allow the County to maximize the power of the Workday and Sherpa platforms.

Workday is a leading provider of enterprise cloud applications for financial management with over 320 government clients. Their applications are designed to manage complex and dynamic operating environments that offer highly adaptable, accessible, and reliable applications to manage the County's critical business functions. Workday will be providing all the major financial components to the County as part of the best in breed ERP approach.

Euna (Sherpa) is a rapidly growing company that focuses on public sector enterprise systems with 34 active government clients. The Sherpa budget system is highly configurable to meet our unique requirements and will bring enhanced budget processes. Sherpa will be providing the County's budget platform for creation of the annual budget along with the production of the budget book.

Project teams anticipates beginning implementation in early 2025 with multiple phases and an anticipated Go-Live date in Summer 2026.

Attachments:

None.