

Item Title: Three-Year Microsoft Purchasing Agreement for Licensing of Server Operating Systems, Microsoft SQL, and Associated Client Access Licenses

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute a contract on behalf of Wake County for a three-year Microsoft purchasing agreement that covers specific Microsoft operating system licenses for the County's servers and the associated client access licenses.

Item Summary:

The Information Services (IS) Department is responsible for ensuring that licenses for all computer system components are properly maintained and upgraded as required by specific vendor agreements and to maintain proper network security.

The County uses Microsoft operating system software for the majority of the servers in the County data center. The current licenses are maintained under a three-year agreement that commenced in February of 2015 and expires on February 28, 2018. This agreement provided the County volume-level pricing for purchasing licenses and "software assurance", a support add-on for the specified products that also provides the ability to upgrade to the latest software version without repurchasing the newer product. In order to continue access to volume pricing and allow the County to continue software assurance on the licenses purchased under the previous agreement, the County wishes to enter into a new three-year agreement with Microsoft. This will preserve entitlement to the latest software versions, which is very important both from an operational standpoint and from the standpoint of maintaining network security.

Wake County's current three-year Microsoft purchasing agreement, as well as the previous three-year agreement utilized the State of North Carolina's purchasing contract for Microsoft licensing which is pre-negotiated by the State for use by State and Local Governments. That contract vehicle continues to be the most cost-effective procurement source for the specific set of Microsoft products Wake County requires. SHI, Inc. is the current servicing agent of that contract and has quoted the needed items, per the State contract pricing. The total three-year cost of \$556,517.25 is spread across three annual payments of \$185,505.75 for the three-year agreement period of March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2021. The agreement covers all needed Microsoft licensing. Additional licenses can be procured as needed at the contract rate.

This is a planned expense with funding allocated in the IS Department operating and capital budgets.

Attachments:

None