Network eDiscovery Tool

Briefing Date: Jun 2 2020
Funding Source: 195.1090.0.06520.1003
Originating Department: Information Technology
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Recommended by: Stanley Victrum, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Traditionally, when the County IT Office receives document requests for legal matters or Public Information Act (PIA) requests, the requests are searched against Mainframe records and/or electronic messages. The County IT Office acquired eDiscovery tools over time which have enabled the appropriate IT Staff to apply complex keyword searches to fulfill the requests. Recently, County IT was asked by one of the County’s contracted legal consultants to execute complex keyword searches against documents which reside on network file shares, Microsoft OneDrive and Microsoft SharePoint. The County IT Office does not have a tool to facilitate such document/data requests, which totaled to 100+ during the last 12-month period.

Endeavoring to equip the County IT Staff with a suitable solution promptly and for this purpose, County IT worked with the County’s contracted legal consultant’s forensic team and found one platform that can support complex keyword searches across the noted platforms. Varonis is the maker of the tool and the platform name is DatAnswers. DatAnswers will permit the County IT Office to conduct Google-style searches against documents on network drives, Microsoft OneDrive and Microsoft SharePoint at the same time from a single console with all of the customary artifacts\metadata that eDiscovery would require. Today, the County IT Office uses a different Varonis platform (DatAdvantage) in support of the County's CJIS compliance program. As a direct result of having DatAdvantage installed and operational, the County IT Office can quickly expedite the installation of DatAnswers to meet such document and public information requests, including one significant one that is pending.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT:
In addition to the cost of the annual subscription licenses in the DatAnswers module, Dallas County will need to upgrade the current DatAlert licenses, which provide near real-time notification, and increase the number of these licenses from 1,300 employees to 2,600. The DatAlert license upgrade is necessary to cover the approximate number of County Staff members who handle sensitive information and the associated cost for this upgrade is a one-time charge.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The first-year total cost of the network eDiscovery tool and the license upgrade is $128,544.00. The cost for the annual DatAnswers license subscription is $110,994.00. The one-time DatAlert license
upgrade charge is $17,550.00. Funding is available in the Major Technology - Maintenance Contracts Account (195.1090.06520.1003) and can be obtained from SHI using the BuyBoard Technology Contract # 579-19.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

This request is consistent with the County Administrative Plan Vision #1 - "Dallas County is operationally a model governmental entity" and is also in line with the County IT FY2020 - 2024 Strategic Plan Emphasis Area #3.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commissioners Court approve the purchase from SHI using the BuyBoard Technology Contract # 579-19 of a Varonis DatAnswers module with annual subscription licenses at a cost of $110,994.00 along with a one-time Varonis DatAlert license upgrade at a cost of $17,550.00 for a total first-year cost of $128,544.00 with funding from the Major Technology Fund - Maintenance Contracts Account (195.1090.06520.1003) in order to enhance the County's eDiscovery capabilities as detailed in the corresponding Court briefing.

**MOTION:**

On a motion made by TBD, and seconded by TBD, the following order will be voted on by the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, State of Texas:

Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby approve the purchase from SHI using the BuyBoard Technology Contract # 579-19 of a Varonis DatAnswers module with annual subscription licenses at a cost of $110,994.00 along with a one-time Varonis DatAlert license upgrade at a cost of $17,550.00 for a total first-year cost of $128,544.00 with funding from the Major Technology Fund - Maintenance Contracts Account (195.1090.06520.1003) in order to enhance the County's eDiscovery capabilities as detailed in the corresponding Court briefing.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None