



RYAN ARBON, SHERIFF

AARON PERRY, CHIEF DEPUTY
PHILLIP REESE, CHIEF DEPUTY
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11/24/2021

Emergency Procurement: Jail Door Controls

Mr. Horne and Mr. Clements,

The door control system in the Weber County Correctional Facility is mostly original work, completed twenty-one years ago. The current system runs on Windows 7 software and obsolete hardware.

This was a problem we anticipated, and in early 2020 awarded Professional Systems Technology (PST) the work to replace our system with a new one utilizing PST's Best Value Cooperative Contract with the State of Utah Purchasing Division. PST eventually began work in September of 2021 this work was promised to be complete in a few days, yet took nearly a month to finish. In the meantime this area of the jail was in a state of disarray. As of October 27th PST had only completed one area of the jail, or about 15% of the total project. Due to these issues, on October 27th we suspended work with PST

The jail's door controls operate on an interlock system. The interlock is the system which ensures that certain doors cannot be opened at the same time, this system is designed to reduce the possibility of human error which could allow inmate populations from mixing inadvertently, hinders the ability for escape, and contains potential riots and disturbances to one area to prevent them from spreading.

The jail has been running with our interlock system off since work began on the project in early September because the new system and old system do not communicate. We have had multiple security breaches in this time, but to this point we have been fortunate and have not had an incident.

In addition to the interlock issue on October 19th 2021 our main door control system failed to reboot following a power outage. This was due in large part to the age of the system. As a last resort we operated on emergency key sets, this is incredibly dangerous to our staff as well as our inmates as it gives inmates potential access to keys that can open most of the doors of the





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facility, interior as well as exterior. This lasted for two days, thankfully the company who originally designed the system was able to come back and repair it. With these systems being unsupported and obsolete we are concerned about additional failures in the future.

On November 24, 2021 Weber County notified PST of our intent to terminate the \$420,000 project with PST for a myriad of reasons, primarily the safety of our staff and inmates. The contract will terminate 30 days later (December 24, 2021).

James Engle designed our door control system which has worked solidly for over 20 years. In addition he designed the door controls for most of the jails in the state. Mr. Engle's company, Automation Design & Service (AD&S) has provided a bid to upgrade (rather than replace) our old system. This is something we were told was impossible by PST. AD&S' bid came in at \$124,205, this includes undoing the work PST did. There are other vendors that do this type of work, but given our current situation I doubt there is a vendor that could perform the work as quickly or as cheaply as AD&S. In addition given AD&S' history in our facility I doubt there would be another vendor we would have the same level of confidence in.

In addition to our concerns regarding the interlock and potential system-wide failure, we have additional concern regarding supply chain issues. Currently the items needed for the upgrade can be found locally, but stock is depleting and shipments are delayed until, at least, March of 2022.

I feel our situation meets the criteria set out in Section 2-9-55 of the Weber County Code of Ordinances, and our best path moving forward is to accept the detailed bid provided by AD&S as an emergency procurement.

Respectfully,

Brian Baggs

Brian Baggs
Administrative Captain
Weber County Sheriff's Office

