



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

<u>ITEM TITLE</u>	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	AGENDA NUMBER
Enter into contract with Runbeck Election Services for the amount of \$490,500 for the purchase of a Mail Ballot Sorting System and contract for the period of 2022 through 2027.	August 23, 2022 Voting Session	
Dept: Bureau of Elections		
Contact: Beth McBride, Deputy Director of Elections		
Phone: 570-408-8250		

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

The Bureau of Elections recommends that the Council approve a resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute an agreement in the amount of \$490,500 with Runbeck Election Services to purchase a mail ballot sorting system to significantly streamline operations within the Bureau of Elections for calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

SUMMARY:

The following contract recommendation is being submitted by the Bureau of Elections regarding the purchase of a mail ballot sorting system. Please refer to Attachment A for a copy of these recommendations.

FINANCING:

Total contract cost (\$490,500) will come from Act 88 Election Integrity Grant Funding.

COSTS BY FISCAL YEAR:

- 2022 - \$315,500 for the purchase of the mail ballot sorting system and contract
- 2023 – \$35,000 for licensing and service agreement.
- 2024 - \$35,000 for licensing and service agreement.
- 2025 - \$35,000 for licensing and service agreement.
- 2026 - \$35,000 for licensing and service agreement.
- 2027 - \$35,000 for licensing and service agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The Luzerne County Bureau of Elections received notification that we will be received \$1,041,396.09 from the Election Integrity Grant Program. The Bureau will be receiving this amount on an annual basis, based on the number of registered voters the county services. Any money that is not spent year-to-year is returned to the commonwealth.

The purpose of this funding is to ensure that counties across the commonwealth have their mail-in ballots counted by 12:01AM on election night. While the Bureau of Elections will be able to achieve this in several ways as a result of this funding, the purchase of a mail ballot sorting system is paramount in ensuring that the Bureau is able to count all the mail-in ballots received by the deadline set by the state legislature.

Runbeck Elections Solutions offers the only machine to fit the needs of the Bureau of Elections. The Agilis Mail Ballot Scanning and Sorting Solution will allow the Bureau to scan 18,000 ballots per hour and significantly speeds up processes that would otherwise be done manually. This sorting system automatically prints time and date on envelopes, scans voter barcodes and captures images of our envelopes, gives voters credit in our voter database, generates reports, sorts envelopes by exceptions, and detects ballot thickness to determine if a ballot is missing a secrecy envelope or overfilled. This machine would allow the Bureau to complete this process within hours, which otherwise takes the Bureau of Elections days to complete.

ALTERNATIVES:

Being that this is the only machine to fit the Bureau's needs, our options are limited and there are no suitable alternatives.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Not Applicable.