



NEVADA COUNTY LIBRARY

www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/library
library.reference@co.nevada.ca.us

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Laura Pappani, County Librarian**

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing a software as a service (SaaS) agreement with Auto-Graphics, Inc. for the implementation of and first year subscription to the VERSO hosted integrated library system in an amount not to exceed \$113,066 for the first three years of the Agreement, and amending the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Library budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: The source of funding for this contract is the Library's FY15-16 budget, with \$53,493 of the \$58,119 required for the first year coming from the Library fund balance in order to cover implementation costs and the overlap in contracting periods with the current software-as-a-service provider. This Resolution requires a budget amendment to the Library budget for FY15-16. There is no impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Library has contracted with SirsiDynix since 2005 for the provision of an integrated library system using Horizon software. Horizon is used to provide automated circulation services for Library materials, including the public-facing online catalog accessed by Library users to find materials, place holds, and perform other activities in their Library accounts. Although SirsiDynix is developing new interfaces for both staff and public users that are designed to improve the experience while pulling data from the same database, the upgrades are offered at an increased cost.

Desiring to explore all options for improved customer service and staff usability, the Library requested the Purchasing Agent to issue a Request for Proposals in March 2015. Nine proposals were received. Following a thorough review of the proposals by a selection committee comprised of Library, Information Systems, and Purchasing staff, three finalists were invited to demonstrate their systems. Follow-up selection committee discussions resulted in a unanimous decision to proceed with the VERSO integrated library system provided by Auto-Graphics.

The cost for initial implementation of the VERSO integrated library system is \$31,840, and the Year 1 annual subscription cost is \$24,515. The Library budgeted \$23,000 for its integrated library

system subscription in FY15-16. Part of this amount (\$18,374) is being spent to keep Horizon running until March 2016, when we anticipate switching to VERSO. Therefore, \$4,626 is available in the existing budget to apply to the first year subscription to VERSO. The Library needs to access \$51,729 from its fund balance in order to proceed with the migration to VERSO. Although the initial cost to implement VERSO is higher than the cost to implement basic improvements to Horizon, the annual subscription cost for Horizon is 31% higher in the first year alone, with the gap increasing as future years are projected. The costs are projected to break even in Year 4 (2020) of a contract with Auto-Graphics and it is also projected that switching to VERSO will have saved Nevada County more than \$70,000 by Year 10 (2026).

Along with the cost savings, the VERSO product will enhance customer service and improve efficiency. The online catalog will be vastly improved, both visually and functionally. Library staff has long chafed at the inability to customize the Horizon catalog; the VERSO catalog is easily modified and customized. A children's version of the catalog will enhance the ability of our younger users to find materials. Library users will not see the staff interface, but they will notice the faster and more robust service they receive due to improved search capabilities and better-integrated and accessible circulation functions.

The Library requests approval from the Board of Supervisors to proceed with this much-needed modernization of Library services and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the related contract documents.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Laura Pappani, County Librarian