



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2012

TO: Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Edward H. Blum, Chairman *EHB*
Fairfax County Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC)

SUBJECT: FY2012 Budget Recommendations for County Information Technology

The Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) supports the County Executive's proposed FY 2013 budget for IT – while continuing to recognize that challenges remain for the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and County Agencies that depend on automation to support productivity gains and required services in the face of static budgets.

ITPAC notes that with the several years of budget cuts IT operational capacity is diminished, which could increase operational risks and chances for serious performance degradation if the trend continues. While DIT has been quite cost-competitive relative to the commercial market for services it provides, its ability to respond has been challenged and projects have been deferred.

ITPAC continues to review and assess Fairfax County IT programs, resources, and return on investment in light of County needs. For preparation of the proposed 2013 budget, ITPAC earlier sent its recommendations in the attached letter to the County Executive with copies to Chairman Bulova and the Board of Supervisors. This follow-up letter highlights areas that merit review by the County Executive and Board of Supervisors. It offers the following observations for consideration as likely requirements for 2013 technology initiatives and programs:

- **FOCUS Technical support:** ITPAC continues support for ongoing staff augmentation services in DIT in support of the technical requirements for FOCUS, especially critical with the remaining overlapping phases, and 24 x 7 required production support.
- **Mobile workforce:** The county should continue to develop capacity for supporting the growing mobile workforce, embracing tablets (or similar devices), smart phones, and other portable tools. Investments in the underlying technology are reasonable and will pay off in worker productivity. Additionally, we see rapid adoption across the country in response to economic challenges and increased demand for services facing governments.
- **Cloud Computing:** DIT has developed a concept of a private, municipal cloud that would be a public-private partnership arrangement with a commercial provider, for an offering tailored for governmental requirements to serve certain IT infrastructure and common applications needs. Several other local governments and other public organizations have approached Fairfax County IT to join in furthering this concept, seeing the benefit in economies of scale, reduction in capital outlay, and increasing security dynamics. ITPAC appreciates this innovative concept and supports that the county continue to investigate this model, with due care and consideration, especially with respect to governance issues and developing a solid business case.
- **Cyber Security:** Significant crippling attacks to the nation's critical IT assets and data are predicted by national security and homeland security agencies. While the county is mitigating its known risks,

increased use of the internet in engaging with the public requires continuous updating of protective technology and controls.

- **Disaster Recovery:** With the evolution of technology from the old ‘mainframe’ to newer infrastructure, and with many county agencies on-line 24 x7, the county must update its IT disaster recovery plan to include more systems, especially due to the increasing number of real potential catastrophic events that would impede the county from functioning.
- **DIT Salary Structure:** Current salary scales for certain expert specialties have put the county at a competitive disadvantage for recruiting skilled staff in ERP, cyber security, WEB and wireless infrastructure. As a result the county will have to expand use of more costly staff augmentation in these areas for the foreseeable future.

Please refer to the attached interim letter for additional background and analysis.

CC:

Board of Supervisors
Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
Patricia Harrison, Deputy County Executive
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive
Wanda Gibson, Chief Technology Officer
Susan Datta, Chief Financial Officer

ITPAC Members:

Edward H. Blum (Chair)	Supervisor Smyth – Providence District
John P. Skudlarek (Vice Chair)	Supervisor Hyland – Mount Vernon District
Siddhartha Chowdhary	Supervisor Foust – Dranesville District
Luke Chung	Fairfax County School Board
Michael A. DiConti	Supervisor Frey – Sully District
Thomas G. Haser	Chamber of Commerce
Susan S. Hoffman	Supervisor Gross – Mason District
Anne S. Kanter	League of Women Voters
Bhaskar Kuppusamy	Supervisor Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Steven Lam	Supervisor Cook – Braddock District
Paul Liberty	Northern Virginia Technology Council
Emily B. McCoy	Supervisor McKay – Lee District
John Hanks	Federation of Citizens’ Associations
Kathryn Walsh	Chairman Bulova – At Large
Walter B. Williams	Supervisor Herrity – Springfield District