RFP 2022-0500-5158 School Capital Forecast Database Questions and Answers

1. Section 1.04 lists Visual Basic, Rbase 4.5++, MapObjects and Crystal Reports as required experience. The RFP makes no other reference to these technologies. Are these technical requirements for the new system and if so, would the State be open to alternatives such as C#, SQL Server, and SQL Reporting Services?

The listed programming languages and development tools are representative of anticipated knowledge and skills that will be needed. These alternatives will be reviewed for acceptance and the RFP will be amended to reflect change to qualifications as needed.

2. Section 2.01 mentions "approximately 800 spreadsheets" the department proposes to convert. Do these spreadsheets conform to the format of the sample renewal and replacement schedule spreadsheet in attachment 1? Are there other types of spreadsheet or data that needs to be imported?

The "approximately 800 spreadsheets" all reference and conform to the sample renewal and replacement schedule spreadsheet provided. Other spreadsheets and data are identified in Attachment 2 "Data Sources to Be 'Migrated'".

3. Section 2.01 specifies that the database would need to have a log-in based, public-facing access to allow school districts to update the building systems data (bottom page 7). Do these changes require an approval workflow, or will the changes made by the school district user be authoritative?

It is anticipated that changes will require a one-step approval by a qualified department user.

4. Regarding authentication, is there an existing account store or should a new authentication management component be built as part of the scope? If the latter, are there any integration requirements with myAlaska, State AD, or other?

There is no existing account store. No integration is anticipated with myAlaska or State AD.

5. Attachment 1 refers to software/databases from commercial vendors on page 2 (including Gordian VFA and AssetWorks). Is there an expectation that functionality needs to match these systems or that there are any interfaces to/from these systems?

Example of existing commercial software provided for context regarding capital renewal forecasting systems. No expectation for matching exact functionality or interfaces to commercial systems are anticipated.

6. Has the State performed a gap analysis against these systems, and could you share the key reasons for the make/buy decision?

No formal gap analysis against commercial systems has been accomplished but a general sense was that they were too complex. A primary driver of the 'make' decision was the ability to more rapidly complete the acquisition of Data Group 1 – Capital Renewal Needs using legacy tools. Another primary driver was to have the ability to develop multi-year budgeting scenarios incorporating Alaska-specific funding mechanisms (identified in Attachment 2 "Describe the Dashboard").

7. Attachment 2, under Goals and Objectives on page 1 refers to (multiple) "existing DEED Facilities Access databases". The document later refers to data sources to be migrated on page 4. Could you identify the interfaces to external databases that are required?

Please see the Attachment 2 section Integrations with Other Systems for information addressing this question.