

**AGENDA ITEM 30**

Consider approving contract with Evercom Systems, Inc for new inmate telephone system.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To approve contract with Evercom Systems, Inc for new inmate telephone system.

Vote: 5 - 0

< Attachment >

**Information Technology Services****INTEROFFICE MEMO**

April 23, 2001

To: Judge John Doerfler  
Commissioner Mike Heiligenstein  
Commissioner Greg Boatright  
Commissioner David Hays  
Commissioner Frankie Limmer

From: Jay Schade, Director, Information Technology Services

Subject: EverCom Inmate Telephone System Upgrade

*approved 4-24-01  
John C. Doerfler*

Attached you will find documentation in support of Item #30 on the agenda (EverCom Inmate Phone System).

In response to the concerns of the Auditors' Office, I personally called eight different counties who are currently using the inmate phone system proposed by EverCom Systems, Inc. The comments I received were unanimously positive, all highly recommending the system. Also, I found that the commission proposed for Williamson County (50%) is a higher percent than almost all of the counties and it is surpassed by only one of the counties I contacted (Denton Co - 50.5%). It is reasonable that the commission would be higher when the volume of calls generated, and thus the revenue generated, is significantly higher. We, in turn, will negotiate a higher percentage upon completion of the jail expansion when our telephone traffic will significantly increase as well.

Gene Taylor, Dale Rye, David Flores and Bob Space have all reviewed the contract. The primary concerns were two expressed by Bob Space. One was whether or not the proposed commission was in line with that paid to other counties. The second was whether or not we could negotiate a signing bonus to be paid upon execution of the contract. As I mentioned above, the 50% commission is reasonable and in line with other counties. As for a bonus paid up-front, the only county that received money up-front was Wilson County and that money was not in addition to the commissions, but simply an advance on those commissions. They needed that money to purchase other computer equipment for a non-related project. In return for the advance commissions, they signed a 9-year contract at a much lower commission rate (30%).

Because of the reasons I stated last week in court which were confirmed by my conversations with the counties I contacted (i.e. the investigative tools provided in the system in the way of monitoring, recording and tracking calls, the ability of citizens to block calls, and the fact that our revenue remains the same), **I recommend that we approve the three-year contract with EverCom Systems.**

Thank you.