

**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.

## References for EverCom Inmate Telephone System

		#Monitors	Comm%	\$UpFront
<b>Hays County</b> San Marcos, TX	Population 286	1 (need 2)	36%	
-Chose EverCom because of they've had good experience with them in the past.				
<b>Denton County</b> Denton, TX	Population 961	1	50.5%	
-Went out for bid... EverCom won.				
<b>Wilson County</b> Floresville, TX	Population 160	1	30%	\$200,000 (advance commission)
-Went out for bid... chose EverCom because of advance commission and higher rate.				
<b>Brazos County</b> Bryan, TX	Population 583	2 (2 separate sites, +1 in Juvenile)	46%	
-Went out for bid... EverCom won.				
-Specifically did not want up-front money, only commission so could compare fairly.				
<b>Tom Green County</b> San Angelo, TX	Population 265	1	50%	
-“We love it!”				
<b>Hale County</b> Plainview, TX	Population 190	1	7%	
-Chose EverCom because they were happy with their existing relationship.				
<b>Collin County</b> McKinney, TX	Population 704	2	28%	
-“Would highly recommend getting a CD-writer... because of the vast wealth of info, we got many more requests (subpoenas) for information. We actually need another person two or three days a week to handle all the requests.”				
<b>San Patricio Co</b> Sinton, TX	Population 232	1	35%	
-Had SW Bell... went out for bid... EverCom won.				

**\*\* In contacting the counties listed, the following comments were heard:**

“I haven’t heard of anyone getting higher than 50-51% commission”

“We need two monitor stations because the usage increased so much after upgrading to the CAM system”

“We absolutely love it!”

“We need a CD-Writer and another person just to handle the added volume because the DA’s office is requesting so much more information that we didn’t have before.”

“If you go out for bid for an inmate phone system, you are likely to get a lower commission, because they know no other company will offer close to the same commissions” (this seems to prove itself when you look at Collin County (28%), Hays County (36%), Brazos County (46%).

“the CAM system has allowed us to seal the case on prisoners where we wouldn’t have been able to otherwise.”

Out of the eight counties contacted, not a single county had anything bad to say about the inmate phone system or about EverCom. The worst thing anyone said was that, because the system offers so much more, and they were able to get so much more information, their requests for information significantly increased... from the DA’s office, the FBI, etc.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Because of the following, **I recommend that we approve the 3-year contract with EverCom:**

- 1) The proposed upgrade provides many new features which will enhance the Sheriff’s Office repertoire of investigative resources,
- 2) The commission rate offered to Williamson County (50%), when compared to other counties both larger and smaller than Williamson County, is a reasonable rate,
- 3) The Sheriff’s Office’s experience with EverCom has been positive and satisfactory, and
- 4) The comments from eight of the existing EverCom customers which have been using the proposed system for several years have been unanimously positive.

**AGENDA ITEM 31**Hold public hearing on resubdivision of Wild Country Ranch, lot 3.

Judge Doerfler announced the public hearing open on the resubdivision of Wild Country Ranch, Lot 3 at 10:05 a.m., on Tuesday, April 24, 2001.

County Engineer Joe England discussed the proposed resubdivision of Wild Country Ranch, Lot 3.

Judge Doerfler announced the public hearing closed on the resubdivision of Wild Country Ranch, Lot 3 at 10:06 a.m., on Tuesday, April 24, 2001.

< Attachment >

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

Notice is hereby given that the Williamson County Commissioners' Court will meet at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the 24th day of April, 2001, at its regular meeting place in the Williamson County Courthouse, Georgetown, Texas to consider the proposed Resubdivision Plat of Lot 3, Wild Country Ranch, located on Sunny Slope Road.

As one of the property owners within 400 feet of the proposed subdivision, you are invited to be present at such meeting if you desire to discuss the proposed plan.

SEE ATTACHED LOCATION MAP FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

Dated: March 27, 2001

For further information, phone the Williamson County Precinct No. 3 office at 863-4390.

**PROPERTY OWNERS' COMMENT**

Project Name: Resubdivision of Lot 3, Wild Country Ranch

Name of Respondent WILLIAM + PATRICIA RUSSELL

I am in favor ☒

I object \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to submit written comment, it will be read before the Williamson County Commissioner's Court at the above stated time and place.

PLEASE REPLY TO: Williamson County Commissioners' Court  
c/o Judge John C. Doerfler  
Williamson County Courthouse  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

*held for whenever is  
on agenda - then in  
network.*

ntg.doc

*Thank  
81*