LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

State Capitol   700 Capital Avenue   Frankfort KY 40601

502-564-8100

Capitol Fax 502-564-2922
Annex Fax 502-564-6543
legislature.ky.gov

Jay D. Hartz
Director

September 29, 2023

Representative Philip Pratt
702 Capital Ave
Annex Room 367B
Frankfort, KY 40601

Senator Gex Williams
702 Capital Ave
Annex Room 284
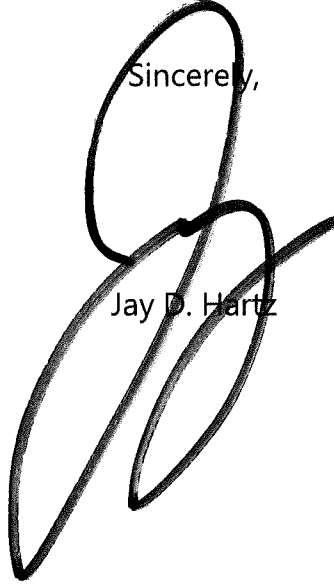Frankfort, KY 40601

Via email to Jennifer Hays

Co-Chair Pratt and Williams:

We are in receipt of a September 21, 2023 email regarding the October 10, 2023 meeting of the Investments in Information Technology Improvements & Modernization Projects Oversight Board. In accordance with long standing policy, LRC staff are not permitted to testify before committees. Therefore, I must respectfully decline the invitation of staff to appear before your committee.

However, to further the important work of your committee, we have answered the questions posed in the email in writing, you will find attached.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Hartz

cc: Jennifer Hays
       Carla Montgomery
       Joel Redding
       Jenny Bannister
       Jonathan Eakin

1. Does your agency/department have a technology budget?

A: Funding for all components of the Office for Computing & Information Technology (OCIT) are contained within the Legislative Branch budget.

    a. Is your IT or technology budget independent of your capital project budget?

    b. Are your ongoing projects funded through your operating budget or as a capital project?

A: As part of the LRC's continuous improvement planning, any technology projects or expenses identified for the next biennium are presented to the LRC Director and Chief Fiscal Officer for consideration in the Legislative Branch budget. The LRC generally adheres to the definition of a capital project under KRS 45.750(1)(f).

2. Are your legacy systems housed at:

    a. COT;

A: No. We do interface with KHRIS and EMARS to get data.

    b. In house;

A: Yes.

    c. Agency-managed cloud;

A: We are starting to work with containers and Kubernetes along with other applications which provide cloud-like services. Some of which could be migrated to the cloud if needed at some point.

    d. Vendor-managed cloud;

A: There are portions of our website that are hosted by KY.GOV. We also transfer data to KY.GOV for the Bill Watch application.

    e. Other?

3. If you have transitioned from COT to the cloud, how did that impact your operating budget?

A: We are not transitioning from COT because we are separate from them. We are currently in the process of transitioning to a new budgeting system with CGI that is cloud based.

We are also getting ready to implement a new Constituent Resource Management System (Internet Quorum) which is cloud based.

       4. Is the Alternate Data Center useful to your agency?

A: No

       5. How do you fund security against hackers?

A: Funding for all components of the Office for Computing & Information Technology (OCIT) are contained within the Legislative Branch base budget. The LRC has created a dedicated Cybersecurity section within OCIT and has successfully onboarded our Information Security Manager.

       a. Do you regularly test your backup and recovery plan?

A: We have performed successful small data recoveries approximately 4 times over the last 4 years

       b. When did you last test your backup and recovery plan?

A: The last test of our backup and recovery plan was performed on 9/22/2023.

       6. Are agency employees working remotely?

A: Yes. Telework eligible OCIT employees are working remotely up to two days a week during the Interim period.

       a. Are you satisfied with tools to manage remote workers?

A: Yes.

       b. Can you quantify the savings by having remote workers?

A: Savings are related to a reduction in staff turnover. OCIT experienced a significant loss of personnel who identified a lack of remote work options as a contributing factor in their decision to separate from the LRC.

       7. How could the funding and governance of technology be improved in Kentucky?

       a. Do you have a clear chain of command for technology governance?

A: Yes

      b.   Are you satisfied with the funding and governance in your agency?

A: Yes

      8. Are there statutes that impede implementation of software as a service, third party packages, or agency development?

A: Not currently to our knowledge.