

Questions and Answers for Electronic Monitoring Bid

- 1) Who is the incumbent? **AMS / Scram**
- 2) How many devices are currently in use? **31 as of 8/14/19. High to date has been 38.**
- 3) Will you be having vendors give presentations / demonstrations? **Once all bids are reviewed, we will rate which vendors are best suited to fulfill our needs. After this we will determine which vendors to set up for a demonstration.**
- 4) Who is Butler County Sheriff's Office current contracted vendor for Electronic Monitoring System Services described in this ITB? **AMS / Scram**
- 5) Could the County please share the make and model of all the equipment they use and the contracted daily rate? **Scram GPS device revision M. \$3.48 per day for active devices.**
- 6) What was the average utilization for the month of June and July for each model/technology? **25-35. This is an estimate and not a mathematical daily average.**
- 7) Regarding the fifth page under Minimum Requirements it states "The tracking device shall communicate over a CDMA 3G or 4G Network." This requirement restricts a segment of providers. Is there a specific reason that this requirement only is specifying only CDMA (Verizon/Sprint). Verizon and Sprint will be shutting most of their 3G towers by the end of this year to devote resources to LTE and 5G products. Coverage maps provided by independent testing and evaluation companies show that 3G and 4G GSM services in the Butler County by both WhistleStop and Root Metrics both show complete countywide coverage. Please see the links. Can vendors that provide 3G/4G GSM coverage bid and be considered?

<https://www.whistleout.com/CellPhones/Guides/att-coverage-map>

<http://webcoveragemap.rootmetrics.com/en-US>

The requirement for cellular service was based on specifications we are using now with our current vendor. They provide both Verizon and AT&T devices, although we primarily use Verizon devices. Verizon provides the most coverage in the U.S. and we have not had many coverage issues thus far. We must have a provider that has nationwide coverage, not just in the Butler County Area. We monitor offenders that are permitted to travel and live in other counties and states. You may submit a bid and we will evaluate your product specifications to determine if we think it will provide adequate coverage.

8) Our question relates to the requirements for straps that are:

1. "re-usable, adjustable, and require no cutting or specially designed tools by the agencies to fit on an offender," and
2. "a minimum width of 1-inch."

The first requirement relates to older, out-of-date technology. With the advent of MRSA and other transmittable antibiotic-resistant infections, Electronic Monitoring vendors began to provide disposable straps, at no additional charge, so that agency staff would not need to sanitize and re-use the straps.

The "minimum width of 1-inch" requirement is probably unique to your current vendor, which restricts competitive bidding and does not necessarily ensure your agency has the best equipment available to meet your needs.

Finally, we see no reason why cutting a strap with a pair of scissors is a problem when the vendor provides replacement straps at no additional charge. It is more cost efficient and easier to replace a strap than to replace an entire device.

Would you consider removing these requirements and allowing vendors to describe the benefits of their strap and installation procedures?

There are pros and cons to both types of straps. We don't feel that reusable straps pose a health concern. We have protocols in place to ensure that the straps are properly sanitized prior to being placed on the offenders. The GPS device itself has the same exposure as the straps and they are sanitized and reused even if the strap is disposable. From our experience, reusable straps seem to be made to a higher quality than the disposable straps. Our current vendor's straps are actually wider than one inch. We feel that a strap that is too thin can possibly be manipulated and risk the offender being able to remove the electronic monitor undetected. As for cutting a strap with scissors, our installations are done inside of our jail where scissors pose a major safety risk. All shipping is paid by our current vendor so there is no cost to us when sending a device out for strap replacements. You can submit a bid and if we feel your company can provide the service we are looking for; we will evaluate your equipment to see if it will best suit our needs.