MEMORANDUM

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TO: Members, Legislative Post Audit Committee
FROM: Katrin Osterhaus, IT Audit Manager
DATE: January 20, 2021
SUBJECT: Automated Biometric Identification System ABIS IT Project - Update

Our primary objective in monitoring IT projects is to identify when a project is at risk of failure due to scope, schedule cost or quality problems. By communicating our concerns to the agency, other stakeholders, and legislative bodies we hope to help improve the project's health. Our secondary objective is to evaluate whether monitored IT projects have adequately planned for security controls.

We have monitored the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) project since January 2020. This is our fourth update.

Project scope is satisfactory (no change). As noted in our September update, Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) staff have finalized the scope of the main project and have documented it in the request for proposal (RFP) published June 15, 2020. The RFP and resulting contract award for the new ABIS system locked in the project scope. For this quarter we are not aware of any changes that would affect the project scope. The KBI is working on a request for proposal for a vendor to perform Independent Verification and Validation of the project. KBI officials told us this additional voluntary oversight process will reduce project risk and improve the projects' success.

Project cost is satisfactory (no change). KBI's latest internal cost estimate from our June 30th update was almost $8 million. KBI secured $6.8 million in funding from SB 66 which ensured the project could move forward. Because the KBI is in the final stages of evaluating two prospective vendors, a final cost estimate is not yet publicly available. KBI officials told us the project's estimated cost will be finalized as soon as a contract is awarded.

Project security planning is satisfactory (no change). The agency's planning project and finalized request for proposal included various security and governance requirements for the system. We saw evidence KBI officials had evaluated the security compliance information from the two final vendor proposals. We are not aware of any changes that would affect the security planning of the project.

Project Schedule is behind the originally planned schedule. KBI is behind schedule on two important project deadlines:

- KBI has delayed the original project award deadline from July 2020 to January 2021 (6-month delay). Officials were optimistic they could award the contract by the revised deadline.

- KBI has delayed the original <u>final project completion</u> deadline from December 2022 to April 2023 (4-month delay).

Reasons for the delays include an unplanned round of questions and answers with vendors and the complex procurement process required for the project. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated social distancing and staffing issues made scheduling contract negotiation meetings with necessary stakeholders more difficult than originally anticipated.

The current plan is to have both old and new systems operational for December 2022 through March 2023 period. Although the current system becomes unsupported December 2022, officials are optimistic they can have the current vendor maintain the old system on a monthly basis. As the ABIS project enters its execution phase, it will be paramount to remain on or ahead of schedule to reduce the risk of depending on the old system past 2022.