

**THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE
CERTIFIES THAT THIS RESOLUTION
HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON _____.**

DATE

SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

RESOLUTION

SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 22, 2023

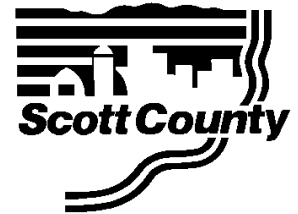
APPROVING PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) ELECTION TABULATORS, DS450

BE IT RESOLVED by the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. The purchase of four (4) ES&S DS450 tabulator election machines for a total of \$231,573.50. This includes software, training and additional components to utilize the new machines. The expense of \$231,573.50 is hereby approved.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Scott County Auditor's Office
Auditor Kerri Tompkins
600 W. 4TH Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801
Ph: (563) 326-8631 Fax: (563) 326-8601
www.scottcountyiowa.gov



June 22, 2023

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Kerri Tompkins

RE: Election Purchases

My office is requesting the approval of the purchase of four new DS450 tabulator machines via ES&S for a total of **\$231,573.50**. This total includes training, software, and necessary additional components to utilize the new equipment. Scott County currently has two DS850 tabulators that were purchased in 2017. However, there were noted concerns via Scott County election staff and ES&S staff during the 2022 General Election. Therefore, I feel it is in our best interest to replace both of these machines to better prepare us for future elections.

This purchase was not a part of the budget process as the concerns arose after documents were submitted. However, I have worked with administrative staff and was requested to bring this item in June for purchase in July.

The fleet of tabulators in Scott County were replaced in 2017 through ES&S, which is an approved vendor through the State of Iowa. To ensure all the machines will continue to be compatible, it is necessary to purchase these machines through ES&S. Due to the new purchase of either tabulator (DS450 or the DS950), a software purchase is necessary. This purchase total is **\$15,032**, included above.

The current machine, the DS850, is no longer sold via ES&S. The updated version is the DS950, which is \$133,100 per machine. It would be necessary to have two of these machines for a machine purchase only of \$266,200. In comparison, the cost of one DS450 total is \$56,595. The total to purchase four DS450 machines is \$226,380. Four DS450 machines are necessary because of their reduced speed compared to the DS950. Therefore, the quantity of the four DS450 purchase is a savings of \$39,820.

In preparation for this purchase, ES&S brought both their DS450 and DS950 to Scott County for a demonstration and trial run. The attendees of that presentation were Auditor staff and current poll workers who had worked the 2022 General Election on the ASVP Board. Each attendee was given an opportunity to use both machines, ask questions, and provide feedback. From this exercise, it was unanimously agreed by all attendees that the DS450 is the purchase of choice. Reasons for this decision include ease of use and simplicity of design to minimize ballot movement and rotation, which means less opportunity for jams. It also runs at a slower speed on the readers, allowing the users to be sure each ballot is properly scanned. It is a more reasonable cost and requires less upkeep and maintenance. An accurate count is the goal, which I feel the DS450 will provide.

Feedback was also sought from visiting ES&S technicians during the 2022 General Election and from other county auditors. Again, the feedback highly recommended the DS450 machines. Their input also steered us toward the use of the simpler device.

If approved, the delivery and training will be scheduled in July to provide adequate preparation time for the fall election cycle. It is possible to have both a Special Election in September and a Primary Election in October before the scheduled City School Election in November.

In addition to this purchase, internal procedural changes have been made and reviewed with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office. Staff continue with training opportunities, and future modifications will be made as identified.

Again, this purchase was not planned and therefore was not in the prepared CIP budget documents via the Auditor's Office. The total amount also includes a trade-in value of \$23,693.50 for the current two DS850 machines.

In order to continue to provide election services to Scott County, I recommend approval of this ES&S purchase in the amount of **\$231,573.50**. If approved, this will be paid from the CIP budget where the amount has been appropriated. I will be available at the June 20th Committee of the Whole meeting and would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration.