



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDING AND THE ROLE OF THE JOINT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

by Matt Becker

Information technology (IT) is used by every state agency to make operations more efficient and services more widely available to the citizens of Colorado. Along with other day-to-day expenses of state government, expenses related to IT are paid through the operating budget in the state's annual budget bill. This *issue brief* outlines the types of projects and expenses related to IT, the role of the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) in overseeing the approval and implementation of IT budget requests, and funding for IT projects.

The term "information technology" means IT and computer-based equipment and related services designed for the storage, manipulation, and retrieval of data by electronic or mechanical means, or both. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- computers, laptops, servers, network routers, hand-held devices, data storage devices, and all peripheral devices, including communications network equipment and systems;
- related services, feasibility studies, systems design, software, system testing, external storage, and network services, whether provided by state employees or others;
- systems, programs, routines, and processes used to employ and control data processing hardware, including operating systems, utilities, applications, software, and networking programs; and

- the application of electronic information processing hardware, software, or telecommunications to support state government business processes.

Operating budget requests related to the ongoing costs associated with the maintenance of IT systems are reviewed and prioritized by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). IT operations for state agencies are managed by the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). Significant IT budget requests (costing \$500,000 or more) are reviewed and prioritized by the JTC for recommendation to the JBC.

Joint Technology Committee

The JTC is charged with reviewing significant IT projects, prioritizing IT budget requests, forecasting the state's need for future IT budget requests, and reviewing IT legislation. The JTC is a statutory, six-member committee of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives established in 2013. Prior to FY 2014-15, IT budget requests were considered capital construction budget requests and were reviewed by the Capital Development Committee (CDC). The JTC did make recommendations about FY 2014-15 IT budget requests. Beginning in FY 2015-16, the JTC will review all significant IT budget requests. The committee is required to meet at least once a year to consider IT budget requests and other IT issues. The committee reports recommendations, prioritization, findings, and comments regarding IT budget requests to

the JBC for inclusion in the state's annual budget bill. The JBC may also seek the JTC's review of any other operating budget request for IT.

Members of the JTC. The JTC consists of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives. Each chamber is represented by two members of the majority party and one member of the minority party. Two Senate members are chosen by the Senate President and one by the Senate Minority Leader. Two of the House members are appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the House Minority Leader. Members of the JTC must be appointed after the general election, but prior to the convening of the General Assembly. The committee elects a chair and vice chair, one from the House and one from the Senate, both of whom serve for the first regular session. They switch roles for the second session.

Committee oversight. The JTC has oversight responsibility for OIT, which includes reviewing and prioritizing significant IT projects and ensuring that IT projects follow best practice standards. Oversight does not include interference with the general responsibilities of OIT. Other JTC oversight responsibilities include: emergency acquisitions of IT resources; annual updates to the statewide IT plan; the state's Chief Information Security Officer and his or her duties; and any IT purchased or implemented by a state agency that does not follow the standards set by OIT or is not approved through OIT. Legislative service agency directors are also required to maintain an information security plan and keep the JTC advised of the plan.

Reporting requirements and other duties. The JTC is required to submit a written report on the committee's findings and recommendations to the JBC by the first day of each regular legislative session. The report may include recommended legislation, any other information pertaining to approved IT budget requests, and a report on the status of multi-year IT projects. State agencies are encouraged to submit an annual written report on or before November 1 to the JTC concerning IT matters not managed by OIT. Additionally, if a vacancy arises for the Legislative

Branch position on the Government Data Advisory Board or the Statewide Internet Portal Authority board of directors, it must be filled by a JTC member. The JTC must also appoint two of its members who are not affiliated with the same political party to serve on the Colorado Voter Access and Modernized Elections Commission.

Recent State Funding for Information Technology Projects

Prior to FY 2014-15, IT budget requests were reviewed by the CDC. The JTC made recommendations about FY 2014-15 IT budget requests. Table 1 lists examples of IT projects receiving appropriations in the last five years.

**Table 1
Major IT Projects Funded and Requested Since
FY 2010-11**

Department	Project	Amount
Agriculture	eLicense Implementation	\$700,000
Corrections	Offender Management Information System ^{1,2}	33,129,721
Human Services	Automated Child Support Enforcement System Modernization	7,875,000
Labor and Employment	Workers' Compensation Mainframe Migration and Modernization Project	5,932,500
OIT	Statewide Leave, Time Tracking, and Human Resources Management Systems Modernization	16,070,000
Public Health and Environment	Medical Marijuana Registration System	1,117,284
Public Safety	Business System Replacement, Ports of Entry	1,500,000
Revenue	IT Systems Replacement, Division of Motor Vehicles ¹	93,372,000

¹Includes budget request for FY 2015-16

²Also includes anticipated outyear request for FY 2016-17