



RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Law Enforcement Center

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Andy Penick, Director, Procurement Department
FROM: Major Chester Huffman, Richmond County Sheriff's Office
DATE: July 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Recommendation of Award Memo for Invitation to Bid #26-400

Chester J. Huffman Jr.

On July 14, 2026, four (4) proposals were received for Invitation to Bid #26-400, Fire Alarm System Replacement for the Charles B. Webster Detention Center. The Sheriff's Office recommends awarding Basesix Systems LLC totaling \$538,001.00 as it meets bid specifications and the needs of the facility. Justification for this recommendation is supported by Central Services Department, as follows:

"After reviewing the proposed scopes of work, system approaches, pricing, and potential project risks, Central Services recommends Basesix Systems, LLC, at a bid price of \$538,001, as providing the best overall value to CBW and the city government.

While Basesix is not the lowest-priced bidder, our recommendation is based on a best-value assessment that considers not only initial cost but also technical compatibility, system continuity, project execution, and the potential for unforeseen costs or change orders.

The Charles B. Webster Detention Center currently operates within a Notifier fire alarm system environment. Basesix's proposed approach utilizes Notifier/Honeywell components, providing greater continuity with the existing system architecture and reducing the technical uncertainty associated with introducing an alternative manufacturer. This is particularly important in an occupied detention facility where system reliability, integration, programming, phased installation, and continuity of life-safety operations are critical.

The lowest bid of \$292,500 proposes an alternative Potter fire alarm system. Although alternative equipment may be considered if determined to be equal in fit, form, and function, Central Services believes the substantial difference in price should be weighed against the potential technical and operational risks associated with transitioning to an alternative system platform.

Additionally, Addendum No. 2 clarifies that the intent of the project is to repair or replace deficient devices, circuits, wiring, and programming issues rather than automatically replace all existing wiring. This makes compatibility with the existing system and the contractor's ability to identify and address existing deficiencies particularly important to successful project delivery.

Based on these considerations, Central Services believes that Basesix provides the strongest balance of cost, technical compatibility, and risk management. The additional upfront cost compared with the lowest bidder may be justified by the reduced uncertainty associated with maintaining a system platform consistent with the facility's existing fire alarm infrastructure.

Our recommendation is intended to prioritize long-term system reliability, operational continuity, and cost control while minimizing Augusta's exposure to technical complications and potential change orders."

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions or concerns.