



General Services Agency Parks & Recreation county of TULARE AGENDA ITEM

District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three
EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND

AGENDA DATE: May 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Parks Reservation System

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Approve the purchase and implementation of Active Network reservation software for Fiscal Year 2018/19 in the amount of \$7,600 for the Parks & Recreation Division.
- Approve the necessary budget adjustment per the attached AUD 308 (4/5ths vote required).

SUMMARY:

On June 6, 2017, the Board approved the Parks & Recreation Strategic Business Plan (Plan) and directed staff to implement the following initiatives to improve the condition of the Parks system:

- 1. Establish a Maintenance and Improvement Program (MIP)
- 2. Annually evaluate the availability of one-time project funding
- 3. Increase public engagement and outreach
- 4. Improve customer service

On March 6, 2018, staff updated the Board on the Plan's progress and discussed other opportunities to move its initiatives forward. Part of this presentation included the recommendation to evaluate a new Parks Reservation System to improve customer service.

The current Parks Reservations software was built by the Tulare County Information & Communications Technology department (TCiCT). As the system is past its

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serviceable life, ongoing support and system updates have been a challenge. Furthermore, the current software lacks many features that would allow Parks to improve customer service including: the ability for the public to make reservations online; integrated maps that show geographic areas of the parks and real-time availability of arbors and campsites for reservations; the ability for the public to pay for reservations with a credit card online; and financial and statistical reports. TCiCT does not recommend upgrading the current system to include these features.

While there are no added costs to keeping the current software, it is quickly becoming obsolete and no longer able to meet the department's needs. It is not user-friendly and impedes the Agency's customer service improvement goals. In addition, significant staff resources are required to take payments, coordinate reservations, and answer phone calls.

Over the past year, TCiCT and GSA staff have worked together to conduct extensive research on software that would allow for more efficient online reservations and improve overall customer service at a reasonable cost. Of the systems evaluated, staff has identified Active Network as the best option.

Active Network offers all of the desired upgrades, is user friendly, provides essential administrative support for staff, and has functionality that can also be shared with the Museum. Many other local jurisdictions, including the City of Visalia use Active Network for their park reservations. In terms of cost, Active Network charges a \$15,200 implementation fee, which includes building the site, financial export services, and remote training sessions for staff.

The annual fee is 2.52% of incoming revenue from the reservations. Based on parks reservation revenue from fiscal year 2017/18, this would be approximately \$6,105. However, projected revenue increases due to Park Fees adjustments, approved by the Board on April 9, 2019 and effective July 1, 2019, may increase the reservation system fee by approximately \$200.

Therefore, it is requested that the Board approve one-time funding in the amount of \$15,200 to purchase and implement Active Network, and approve an ongoing budget increase of \$6,500 per year to maintain the system.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The proposed action will result in a one-time \$15,200 and annual \$6,500 Net County Cost to the General Fund.

The attached AUD 308 increases expense line 001-087-1140-7043 by \$7,600 to cover 50% of the Active Network implementation fee this fiscal year. Funding to cover the balance of the implementation as well as the estimated annual \$6,500 fee, for a total of \$14,100, will be included in the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Parks budget.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Tulare County's Strategic Plan includes the Quality of Life initiative. The four

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initiatives included in the Plan will improve the appearance and usability of the County's Parks reservation system, and enable essential quality of life recreational opportunities for County residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Brooke Sisk

General Services Agency Assistant Director

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) AUD 308

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF PARKS RESERVATION SYSTEM) Resolution No)
	OR, SECONDED BY
	_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE FFICIAL MEETING HELD
AYES: NOES: ABSTAIN: ABSENT:	
ATTEST:	JASON T. BRITT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BY:	Deputy Clerk
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- 1. Approved the purchase and implementation of Active Network reservation software for Fiscal Year 2018/19 in the amount of \$7,600 for the Parks & Recreation Division.
- 2. Approved the necessary budget adjustment per the attached AUD 308 (4/5ths vote required).

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