

Legislative Audio and Video Services

Montana Legislative Council

June 24, 2008

What do we offer?

- TVMT - broadcasting of Legislative session standing committees and floor sessions and interim committees and other government activities
- Audiostreaming and recording of legislative and other activities in Capitol Building
- Videostreaming - currently through OPI, next session House and Senate floor sessions
- Sound systems in House and Senate and in committee rooms
- Media access to sound and video feeds

What policy decisions does the Legislative Council need to make?

1. Whether to create a consolidated budget (see attachments A and B).
 - have not built base in past
 - LSD budget or combination with LSD and feed bills
 - fixed costs: production, maintenance and replacement, internet streaming
 - costs for transmission dependent on policy decisions (see attachments C & D)
 - variable costs of media upgrades (see attachment E)
 - do we need to archive, to have dedicated staff, to contract for analysis and long-term planning?
2. What is the priority for communities to receive broadcasting:
 - to maximize population
 - to maximize geographical coverage (rural, longer distance, harder to serve communities)
 - equitable distribution among video service providers
3. What kind of coverage do you want for interim?
 - continue same as session: reduces one-time start-up costs for session
 - reduce number of communities and cost over interim

With these decisions, we can build an integrated budget proposal for the '10-'11 biennium that will formalize an electrical and digital services budget, and provide guidance for the '09 and '11 session transmission and for the extent of interim coverage desired. These decisions will also form the basis for the new Request for Proposal cycle for the next 10 years.

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