

Office of the County Auditor

Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 7-2023

Introduced: February 6, 2023

Auditor: Rebecca Gold

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact to the county for the three-year agreement with ePlus Technology, Inc., will be \$313,299 annually, or \$939,897 in total expenses over three years. Our Office reviewed the vendor quotation and confirmed that the anticipated costs are accurately reflected in the legislation, as well as in the Administration's testimony.

The Department of Technology and Communications Services (DTCS) has confirmed with our Office that appropriations for this contract, which they would like to execute in March 2023, were included in the approved Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

This expense will be incurred in the DTCS Internal Service Fund and will be passed through to other County agencies as a Data Processing Chargeback beginning in Fiscal Year 2024.

Purpose:

Council Bill 7-2023 proposes a three-year agreement with ePlus Technology, Inc., for anti-virus applications and cybersecurity services. If approved, the agreement is scheduled to be executed March 2023 and will be in effect for three years.

Other Comments:

This ePlus Technology, Inc., agreement will provide new services to the County. There are three service components to the agreement:

- **CrowdStrike Falcon** – This feature provides anti-virus protection for servers, laptops, and desktops.
- **CrowdStrike Falcon Complete** – This provides 24/7 management detection and response for malicious activity.
- **CrowdStrike ITP** – Identity Threat Protection manages and alerts DTCS to misused or compromised Howard County Government login accounts.

The County will leverage an existing contract (PA-003-2022) that ePlus has with the State of Maryland that remains in effect until November 14, 2027, with a one-year automatic renewal at the end of that term.