

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**JUNE 25, 2025
1:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Louise Stutes
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Jesse Kiehl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Donna Mears (alternate)
Senator Matt Claman
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Löki Tobin (alternate)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

NONE

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMITTEE BUSINESS

SPEAKER REGISTER

JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, Legislative Affairs Agency
(LAA)
Shay Wilson, Chief Information Officer, LAA
Angela Garay, Executive Director, Office of Victims' Rights
(OVR)

I. CALL TO ORDER

1:01:27 PM

CHAIR HANNAN called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 1:00pm on June 25, 2025, in the Anchorage Legislative Office Building, Denali Room.

1:03:00 PM

Council took a brief at ease due to teleconference audio difficulties.

1:10:17 PM

Council returned from the brief at ease.

Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens.

Ten members present.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1:11:23 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that the Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed without objection.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1:11:48 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the meeting minutes dated May 7, 2025, as presented.

The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Fairbanks LIO Lease Extension Renewal No. 5

1:12:17 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve Renewal No. 5 of the lease for the Fairbanks office space in an amount of \$219,450.48.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Procurement Officer JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, LAA, stated that there is a memo in members' packets about the Fairbanks lease renewal, which is the final renewal before a possible lease extension or new RFP. If approved, the lease would run from August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026. Because the lease exceeds \$50,000 annually, Legislative Council approval is required.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES asked what the square footage is of the Fairbanks office space and how many legislators use the space.

MR. KESTEL responded that Fairbanks has a total square footage of 9,049 feet with eight legislators having office space there.

CHAIR HANNAN added that, in addition to those eight legislators, six more offices are used by staff of other legislators who do not represent Fairbanks, explaining that legislators can have staff based in LIOs outside their districts.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES asked if she could have an office in Sitka if she wanted one.

CHAIR HANNAN responded that the practice has been to accommodate staff in LIOs if a legislator has staff in that location.

SENATOR GIESSEL said she has a staff member based in the Kenai LIO who lives in Soldotna even though she is an Anchorage legislator.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK commented that the Fairbanks LIO is heavily used, with all available space converted to offices and sees high foot traffic. She asked whether alternative LIO locations have been identified or discussed.

MR. KESTEL answered that no research has been done yet because they have not exercised the final renewal. If this renewal is approved, the Agency plans to start that process in the fall to decide whether a lease extension is practical, or a new solicitation is needed for possible expansion or relocation next summer.

CHAIR HANNAN, noting there were no further questions, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

1:18:15 PM

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

b. Mat-Su LIO Lease Extension Renewal No. 4

1:19:22 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve Renewal No. 4 of the lease for the Mat-Su office space in an amount of \$193,504.44.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Procurement Officer JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, LAA, stated that the next memo in the packet covers Lease Renewal No. 4 for the Mat-Su LIO. This renewal would be for one year, from August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026. After this, only one more one-year renewal would remain before the Agency must issue a new solicitation. He noted that the lease exceeds \$50,000 annually, so Legislative Council approval is required.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

1:20:41 PM

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

c. Westlaw Contract Amendment

1:21:40 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked that Legislative Council adopt Amendment No. 1 of the Agency's contract for online legal research services from West, a Thompson Reuters Business, to increase the number of access accounts by four and increase the contract amount by \$15,826.13, to a total of \$242,321.75.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked JC Kestel to speak to this item. She further noted that Emily Nauman and Megan Wallace with Legislative Legal were available on teleconference, and Angela Garay, with the Office of Victims' Rights was available in the room.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, LAA, stated that this was an amendment request. Unlike most items where he asks to spend money, this request is to save money. The amendment would add

the Office of Victims' Rights (OVR) to the Legislative Legal Services contract with West to allow OVR attorneys online legal research access. He said the Agency and OVR got separate quotes but having OVR on its own contract was quite expensive. Combining contracts saves over \$21,000. With committee approval, OVR would be added to the existing Legal Services contract.

SENATOR KIEHL said that legislative offices can have either a Westlaw or LexisNexis account and asked if those are a separate contract or part of the Legislative Legal contract.

MR. KESTEL responded that was a separate contract, and that this particular contract is just for Legislative Legal.

SENATOR KIEHL concluded stating that he did not wish to make any additional amendments to the contract currently before Council, but hoped they might create similar savings opportunities in the future.

MR. KESTEL stated that he would make a note to look into it internally and see what could be done.

CHAIR HANNAN recognized Ms. Garay, Executive Director of the Office of Victims' Rights, and asked if she would like to come forward and address the committee.

ANGELA GARAY, Executive Director, Office of Victim Rights (OVR), replied that she was available to answer any questions and added that she brought updated OVR brochures for anyone interested.

CHAIR HANNAN seeing no further questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[1:25:50 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

d. FY2026 Microsoft Enterprise Software Agreement - Renewal No. 2

[1:27:18 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve the expenditure of \$313,077 for the second of five annual installments to Software House International (SHI) that licenses the Legislature to use Microsoft's software.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Chief Information Officer Shay Wilson to speak to this item.

SHAY WILSON, Chief Information Officer, LAA, stated that members have a memo in their packets about the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. In 2024, Legislative Council approved a five-year contract with Microsoft that includes annual renewals, and this is the second renewal. He explained that the Microsoft software licenses cover a wide range of applications used daily, including the computer operating systems; Office programs like Word and Excel; email; storage; Teams; SharePoint; and all the server software supporting BASIS, file system storage, and databases required to store and track the bill process. The contract was negotiated in conjunction with the Executive and Judicial Branches and used Software House International to get the lowest pricing. The total cost for year one is \$313,077, to be paid from FY2025 Division of Technology and Information operating funds.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[1:29:45 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

e. Darktrace Cybersecurity Software Renewal

[1:30:36 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve the expenditure of \$67,404 to Software House International (SHI) to license the legislature to continue to use Darktrace.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Shay Wilson to speak to this item.

SHAY WILSON, Chief Information Officer, LAA, stated that members have a memo about the Darktrace renewal in their packets. He said Darktrace is one of several cybersecurity tools the Division of Technology and Information (DTI) uses to help protect the legislature. The software learns the normal work habits of each device on the network and monitors traffic, alerting the cybersecurity team if something deviates from usual behavior. He noted they have used Darktrace for three years, but until now it stayed below the cost threshold requiring

Legislative Council approval. Without this renewal, the team would lose valuable visibility into network activity. The renewal cost is \$67,404.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED between Senator Kiehl and Shay Wilson regarding: the types of information the monitoring software collects and how it tracks user interactions on the network; the limits of the technology's visibility, including whether it can read email contents, view VPN traffic, or monitor activity on external Wi-Fi; the system's ability to detect connections from foreign locations; and assurances that data collected by the software remains secure, including clarification that the legislature uses the locally hosted version where all data stays under legislative control.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON asked whether this cybersecurity system acts as a failsafe against users clicking on links in emails that could be threats.

MR. WILSON responded that while there are multiple cybersecurity tools in place to help with that, this particular system likely would not prevent it. However, it could alert his cybersecurity team if it happens. He added that they also use Proofpoint to filter email and Palo Alto systems, which Legislative Council approved, to block such malicious activity.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES asked if the company does not have access to legislative information, how is DTI notified if there is a problem.

MR. WILSON, explained that when problems arise, DTI's cybersecurity team is notified by email and text message twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

CHAIR HANNAN noted that the legislature has used this system for three years and asked if the Council's IT Subcommittee has discussed this issue with the DTI cybersecurity team.

MR. WILSON responded that DTI discussed it internally and procured the system after several high-profile cybersecurity incidents elsewhere. DTI has not yet discussed it with the IT Subcommittee but will make a point to do so.

CHAIR HANNAN followed up to ask if his team has been satisfied with the system's performance over those three years.

MR. WILSON said his team is very happy with the visibility and notifications it provides, explaining that they are aware of much more activity than they would be otherwise.

-DRAFT-

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no further questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[1:42:22 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 10-0.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 1:43pm.

[1:43:34 PM](#)