

# BLOUNT COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

BLOUNT COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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SUSAN KNOPF, Administrator of Elections



PATSY LUNDE, Member  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Budget Committee

From: Susan Knopf, Administrator of Elections *SK*

Date: April 25, 2023

Re: Voting System Conversion Grant

The 2022 Legislative session in Nashville brought about a statewide change in the voting process requiring a Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) beginning January 1, 2024. As a result, this mandate brings with it a reimbursable grant that will cover the cost of the current equipment conversion as well as a new tally computer and 40 additional ballot scanners. The cost for the entire conversion is \$898,803. The grant will be issued by the Coordinator of Elections' office.

Per t.c.a. 2-9-101 (d) Specifications – Contract for modification –  
(d)

(1) On and after January 1, 2024, and notwithstanding another law to the contrary, each voting machine used by a county election commission must produce a voter-verifiable paper audit trail.

(2) A county election commission may apply to the coordinator of elections for an extension of up to two (2) years if necessary to comply with subdivision (d)(1).

(3) As used in this subsection (d), "voter-verifiable paper audit trail" means a paper record that is marked either manually by the voter or with the assistance of a device that includes human-readable voter selections that the voter may check for accuracy before the vote is cast.

On April 19, 2023, the Blount County Election Commission voted to convert our current voting machines into Ballot Marking Devices that will produce a voter verifiable paper ballot to be scanned by the voter in a Verity Scanner. The current machines will have a printer installed into the machine. Forty (40) additional ballot scanners will be purchased for use during early voting and on Election Day.

The conversion process should take approximately 3 – 5 months. Our first election to use the converted system is March 5, 2024. Once we receive the converted voting system, it will be added to our county assets as well as the insurance policy.

Thank you.