



State of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services

300 SW 10th Ave Suite 551-S Topeka, Kansas 66612 Telephone: (785) 296-2391 Fax: (785) 296-1153 TTY: 711 Email: LegServ@las.ks.gov

Thomas A. Day
Director

TO: Legislative Coordinating Council
FROM: Tom Day, Legislative Administrative Services
John Langer, Legislative Office of Information Services
DATE: August 14, 2025
RE: Legislature Data Center

Interim 2025

The technical services staff's main priority is continuing to provide technical support for the various software and hardware platforms in use by staff and legislators here at the Statehouse. Part of our ongoing process includes examining existing software and tools to improve operations. We are in the process of finding and removing duplicate services, and services items that need updated, to help reduce total expenditure and to make us more efficient as a unit. This process is ongoing, and we have already removed various duplicate services as we continue to move forward. In our ongoing effort it is vital that we seek approval from the council to move forward for a service that is required for continued day-to-day operations for LAS staff and Legislature.

Recommendation: Approve moving data center services to cloud environment with Amazon Web Services for \$245,000 annually, and authorize the LCC Chair to sign necessary paperwork.

Data center update. Our current data center will reach the end of its life in October 2025. This means our hardware won't support new software updates needed for security and performance improvements. Additionally, vendor support for our software will end, leaving us without help for any major issues. Extended vendor support will cost approximately \$400,000 per year.

We recommend moving our data center to Amazon Web Services (AWS). After looking at several options, we found that AWS offers the best return on investment for the Legislature. AWS meets high security standards, including FedRAMP compliance, multiple ISO standards, and SOC 2 certification, which exceed State of Kansas ITEC requirements.

If we choose to stay on-site (on-premise), we will have 5 to 6 years at best before restarting this cycle to research a new system so we can stay current with technological changes.

Keeping our data center on-site involves not just the cost of hardware but also annual licensing fees and agreements with software providers. These agreements can make it difficult to switch to different service providers. For example, our current hardware is tightly integrated with VMware, but the companies we use no longer support VMware, forcing us to switch to a new virtual environment.

The cost of upgrading our on-site hardware ranges from \$650,000 to \$1.5 million, including installation and operational setup. AWS, on the other hand, will cost between \$176,000 to \$245,000 for installation and operational setup.

A key advantage of moving to AWS is that it bundles many of the products and services we currently use, reducing our overall costs while enhancing our data center's capabilities and security. With these improvements, AWS will still save us approximately \$100,000 per year, offsetting upfront costs within three years.

We must also look at the current environmental aspects of our data center. The current cooling system will need to be replaced if we decide to stay on-premise. Current estimates for replacement and removal of the cooling system start at \$90,000. This will have to be removed or replaced at some time in the future and needs to be accounted for when looking at the overall cost of the system update.