

May, 18, 2026

Proposal for Adoption of Tyler Technologies CloudGavel

Proposal: Discontinue the current contract with Secure Warrant and enter into a new agreement with Tyler Technologies for the CloudGavel platform, a CJIS-compliant cloud-based warrant management system. CloudGavel will allow officers to generate, submit, review, receive approval for, and return search warrants electronically in both District and Justice Courts.

Background

The Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office has utilized Secure Warrant since 2019, initially paying approximately \$6,750.00 for the service. Since implementation, annual costs have increased to \$10,500.00 annually.

Historical costs are as follows:

- 2019 – \$6,750.00
- 2020 – \$6,750.00
- 2021 – \$8,000.00
- 2022 – \$8,800.00
- 2023 – \$10,500.00
- 2024 – \$10,500.00
- 2025 – \$10,500.00

In addition to escalating costs, Secure Warrant has demonstrated operational limitations including a difficult user interface, inconsistent and incorrect template verbiage, cross-contamination issues between officer warrants, problems delivering returns and orders to judges, inability to review warrants as a complete document, and lack of a reliable mobile application.

CloudGavel Overview

CloudGavel is a cloud-based electronic warrant management platform designed specifically for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, and judges. The platform modernizes and digitizes the warrant process, allowing officers to draft affidavits and warrants from patrol vehicles, offices, or mobile devices and electronically route them for supervisory, prosecutorial, and judicial review.

The system includes:

- Electronic warrant submission and approval workflows
- Electronic signatures and judicial approvals
- CJIS-compliant cloud hosting
- Mobile device accessibility

- Audio/video conferencing capabilities for telephonic warrants
- Audit trails documenting all actions taken on a warrant
- User-configurable templates and workflows
- Integration capability with RMS and court systems
- Judge availability scheduling tools

Cost Savings and Regional Partnership

CloudGavel has offered its platform to all Yellowstone County agencies at a significantly discounted rate. The Year 1 cost for unlimited users countywide is quoted at \$20,000 with a fixed 5% annual escalator upon renewal.

The first-year cost distribution is projected as follows:

- Laurel Police Department – \$1,500
- Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office – \$5,250
- Billings Police Department – \$13,250

Each agency will maintain its own contract and annual renewal process. This transition results in immediate savings to the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office as well as the other agencies within Yellowstone County.

Vetting and Testing Process

The Billings Police Department has invested significant time in evaluating CloudGavel and its capabilities. Staff contacted outside agencies currently using the software, all of which provided positive feedback regarding both the platform and customer support. Members of the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office have participated in this evaluation and also contacted other jurisdictions who currently utilize the CloudGavel platform and received positive feedback.

Two live demonstrations were conducted, and a test environment was created allowing officers to actively build warrants and submit them through the system to judges. Personnel identified as high-frequency Secure Warrant users, including both line-level and command staff, participated in the testing process.

Feedback from BPD personnel identified several advantages over Secure Warrant, including:

- More intuitive and user-friendly interface
- Front-end configurable templates
- Ability to create warrants outside of rigid templates
- Secure and recorded video conferencing with judges
- Dedicated mobile application
- Judge availability calendar and scheduling tools

Additionally, BPD and the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office presented CloudGavel to District Court judges during a scheduled judges meeting and conducted one-on-one

discussions with several judges. The overall response from the judiciary has been supportive of transitioning to the CloudGavel platform.

Implementation Tasks

The following tasks remain prior to implementation:

- Final contract review and approval by Steven Williams of Yellowstone County Attorney's Office and any review requested by Yellowstone County Finance.
- Development and configuration of warrant templates led by Sgt. Gaertner with assistance from YCSO, Laurel PD, and Yellowstone County Attorney's Office.
- Training for Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office personnel and District and Justice Court judges led by Sgt. Gaertner of the Billings Police Department and a designee from the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office.

Recommendation

Based on the operational benefits, substantial long-term cost savings, positive field-testing results, and strong support from partner agencies and the judiciary, it is recommended that the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office discontinue the use of Secure Warrant and move forward with implementation of Tyler Technologies CloudGavel