

Update to City Council on Police and Municipal Courts Records Management Program

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Description

The RCMS program kicked off officially in January of 2016. It was originally envisioned as “replacing TRACIS and JURIS” but that is only a small part of what it will do as there were many ad-hoc sub-programs that had become a part of the work processes of the Tulsa Police and Municipal Courts over the course of several decades as well as several gaps in functionality that were identified during the discovery and development of program scope. RCMS is the largest and most complex technology effort ever pursued by the City of Tulsa. Each of these are companies with significant public safety sector experience. The applications are web-based. The acquisition of these systems is funded by capital monies while out-year funding for 3 dedicated positions is covered by a \$10 Court Technology Fee attached to each municipal court case. Additional out-year funding for service agreements will be covered by the operational budgets of the respective departments. Go-live has been a constantly moving target. We are currently projecting late summer of 2021. Some pieces will go live before others (Computer Aided Dispatch before RMS) and some will go live after the core system goes live (the Business IQ module). All 40 million records from TRACIS and JURIS are being cleansed, re-formatted. And migrated into the new system.

The Records and Courts Management System consists primarily of an integration between two software systems from Central Square Technologies and Journal Technologies Inc. They are designed to fully integrate allowing all necessary data to flow seamlessly from the point of first introduction, either in the CADS call or at the point of writing a citation or report, through the final disposition of a municipal case or the eventual referral to the District Attorney’s Office through an integration with their Karpel RMS.

The Police RMS will include modules for incidents, arrest reports, field interview reports, property supplementals, case management and similar modules which will touch upon all facets of criminal investigation. Affidavits for probable cause warrants and search warrants are notable exceptions due to the approval processes outside of the Tulsa Police Department. Another exception will be information related to sensitive gang and narcotics investigations which will remain within the more modern system in use at SID. The RMS will serve as the point of entry for all incident reports taken by police officers. Online reporting will continue to be an option for persons to make reports when the nature of the crime does not require an officer to physically take the report. The online reporting system will integrate with the primary RMS.

All data within the system will meet NIEM (National Information Exchange Model) requirements and so we will be poised for additional interfaces as needed. The system will integrate with TCSO booking systems to reduce out of service times for officers booking subjects into David L. Moss. The system will interface with our current electronic citation software system. It will integrate with the Laboratory Information Management System in our forensic laboratory, with the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, with our Computer Aided Dispatch System and upcoming Mobile CAD, and with a variety of other systems to support public safety. Currently 41 total interfaces are still in scope.

The Tulsa International Airport Police will be hosted as a separate user within this system and we will have the ability to share data at a level authorized by policy. Other agencies in our region can also be hosted as separate users with information sharing capabilities allowing us to grow a truly regional network. Agencies pursuing these opportunities would contract directly with CST for licensing and would participate under the auspices of an MOU with the COT backed by a Regional Steering Committee.

Overall, the interfaces between the police RMS (Enterprise RMS Web) and the Municipal Court RMS (eCourts and eProsecutor) will save at least 6,000 hours per year (3 FTE) of current dual entry responsibilities. Additional work process rules within the system are anticipated to save significant amounts of time that is currently spent in our Information Services Division performing quality control and ensure more complete and accurate reporting across the board.

3 Specific questions from city council are in bold

With the new records system, is TPD making a change to the type of data being collected?

Yes. Under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program we are moving from the Summary Reporting System (SRS), established in 1930 to the National Incident-Based Reporting System which becomes mandatory in 2021. Because it has been the methodology for reporting crimes under the UCR for decades, the SRS is commonly referred to as UCR.

If so, what are the changes?

The SRS collection now includes 10 Part I crimes for offenses known and arrests, and 29 Part II crimes for which only arrest data are reported. Because of the hierarchy rule, SRS does not reflect all the crimes that might have been committed in an incident. Also, because SRS collects little information about an incident beyond the initial crime committed, researchers cannot use it to answer many types of questions about the causes of crime or relationships between crimes, victims, and suspects. For example, SRS cannot answer how many kidnappings happen at schools or answer questions regarding the demographics of suspects who are not arrested. These weaknesses of SRS limit its statistical value as a guide for well-informed public policy, meaningful public discussion, and strategic policing.

NIBRS collects detailed data for 52 offenses (Group A), plus 10 additional offenses (Group B) for which only arrests are reported. SRS counts limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported. NIBRS collects more detailed information, including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime. With no SRS-style hierarchy rule, agencies may collect NIBRS data on as many as 10 criminal offenses per incident, yielding a more accurate accounting of the total number of reported crimes.

Council and the public need to understand the implications of this. Reported crime in the City of Tulsa is about to increase. All crimes in an incident will be reported under NIBRS, not just the primary crime as was the case under SRS. Because of this change in methodology, it will be very difficult to compare crime data from years prior to going live with NIBRS to years after. It will take

two years of reporting to NIBRS before we can compare year to year data moving forward. This is an inconvenience that every department which has transitioned to NIBRS has faced. There will be no provision for dual reporting due to the level of effort and costs that would be associated with such an effort.

What are the standards or criteria TPD uses to decide on data collection needs and changes?

There is no codified set of standards or criteria that TPD uses when evaluating a potential change in our data collection processes. We collect data for the following reasons:

- It is required by law or policy
- It is necessary or helpful in completing an investigation
- It may document criminal activity or associations
- It may inform us about the effectiveness and efficiency of our operations

We evaluate the need for change in our data collection based upon whether:

- We no longer need a certain piece of information or we have identified a need for previously uncaptured information
- There have been changes to laws or statutes which mandate we begin to collect or no longer collect a piece of information
- We can determine a viable means to capture that data
- The level of effort and cost required to do so outweighs the potential benefits
- We have a clear picture of how this data can be extracted from our system and be converted into actionable information

