

County gets high tech lowdown

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WALHALLA — Technology experts have said with \$326,341 and three to six months they can make Oconee County's government services technologically top-notch.

Larry Maddox of VC3, the firm that has been providing technology supervision for the county since March, outlined recommendations for County Council on Tuesday night. Maddox said his firm's 45-page report outlines a six-phase improvement process that could, in the long run, save the county money.

Council is expected to take up the study in detail as part of the next budget cycle, but it is unlikely the entire process would be funded in one year.

The various phases of the upgrade range in cost from \$23,800 for Web site development to more than \$97,000 for consolidation of all county server units. In between, Maddox recommended that 61 of 254 workstations (computers) be upgraded and 31 others replaced. He also recommended council implement a three- to five-year replacement cycle for computers.

Other recommendations

included greater use of network printers and copiers; consolidation of the separate systems now serving the road, solid waste and vehicle maintenance departments; eventually bringing all county sites into one county network; implementing a better backup system; creating a new Web site; and engaging a firm to do document imaging to cut down on paperwork and storage needs.

The VC3 spokesman also encouraged the council to begin rolling out a new phone system that was purchased two years ago but has yet to be implemented.