

## Software measure approved

- Software that could help the school system cut down on its paper trail will cost \$52,080.

*Barbara Rivera Holmes*

ALBANY — The Dougherty County School System could be almost paperless in the years to come, as officials find ways to implement practices that cut down on the paper pushing.

The Dougherty County Board of Education's Finance Committee Monday afternoon approved software that has the ability to automatically image, archive, index and file any document it electronically customizes.

"It doesn't suffer from human error," Finance Director Robert Lloyd said of the software. "(I'm) trying to make us more effective and efficient with handling papers."

The DOC-E-SCAN software, from Columbia, S.C.-based AIG Technology, would cost \$52,080, which includes 10 days of training. The school system already utilizes DOC- E-FILL and DOC-E-PRINT.

Lloyd said that in the future, the software may even eliminate the need for some clerical positions, thus saving the system more money.

"This can help us, but it's not a magic bullet," said Dougherty County School System Superintendent Sally Whatley. "It's going to take a while."

For final approval, the measure must go before the full board of education, which meets Monday.

The finance committee reviewed other proposals as well.

Lloyd asked the committee to approve awards for three technology bids, totaling \$543,274.

The committee followed Lloyd's suggestions and will present the information to the full board, at which time a final decision can be made.

Two construction e-rate bids also were approved at the 3:15 p.m. meeting, one for voice- over-Internet-protocol (which routes voice conversations over the Internet) and another to lay down fiber-optic cabling.

The projects total \$1.2 million.

The committee also agreed to award its banking investment services bid to Trusco Capital Management (SunTrust Bank), with the hopes of getting a better rate of return on its surplus funds investments.

Currently, surplus funds are invested in a plan with a rate of return of about 4.5 percent, Lloyd said, though that fluctuates.

The move would be an "experiment," officials said.

Again, nothing is final until approved by the full board.

Lloyd projects about \$3 million to be in the general fund by the end of the budget year, June 30. He said the system has been underspending in some areas, including fuel costs, which could increase the amount to \$3.2 million-\$3.5 million.