

Sarah Mitchell
Springfield Daily Register
742 Evergreen Terrace
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: (217) 555-0134
Email: s.mitchell@springfield-news.org

January 15, 2025

FOIA/PA Mail Referral Unit
Department of Homeland Security
Office of Privacy
245 Murray Lane SW, STOP-0655
Washington, DC 20528-0655

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am requesting access to and copies of the following records from the Department of Homeland Security:

Requested Records: All contracts, purchase orders, invoices, and related correspondence pertaining to the procurement of border surveillance technology systems, including but not limited to: autonomous surveillance towers, ground-based radar systems, and integrated sensor platforms. This request covers all such records from the period of **January 1, 2023** through **December 31, 2024**.

This request includes, but is not limited to, records related to contract award notices, vendor selection criteria, cost-benefit analyses, performance evaluations, and any internal memoranda discussing the effectiveness or limitations of these systems. Reference case file: 078-05-1120.

Fee Waiver Request: I am a representative of the news media as defined in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). The Springfield Daily Register is a daily newspaper serving the greater Springfield metropolitan area with a circulation of approximately 45,000 readers. The information requested is sought for the purpose of disseminating information about government operations to the public. I therefore request a waiver of all fees associated with this request.

Expedited Processing: I am requesting expedited processing of this FOIA request pursuant to 6 C.F.R. § 5.5(e). There is a compelling need for the expedited processing of this request as there is an urgency to inform the public concerning ongoing federal government procurement activities, particularly given recent Congressional oversight hearings on border technology spending.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of **\$250.00**. Please inform me if the estimated fees will exceed this amount before processing the request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to receiving your response within the statutory twenty (20) business day time frame.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mitchell

Investigative Reporter
Springfield Daily Register