

Request for a Public Dashboard of Board-Approved Contracts

Informational Report

Prepared by the Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance
in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of the
Comptroller



Our Shared Commitment

- Shared commitment to **improving transparency and accountability**
- A public, searchable list of Milwaukee County contracts...
 - fits within broader, ongoing efforts to improve our contracting systems, and
 - is feasible *if* we do data governance, prioritization decisions, and other foundational work.



Current State: Contract data is siloed

- To keep subject matter experts as close as possible to contracts, many departments manage contracts independently
- Contract records are stored in **many systems**, based on what is best for the unique contract needs and functions
- These systems also have **different standards and capabilities**, making it difficult to easily extract information from these silos



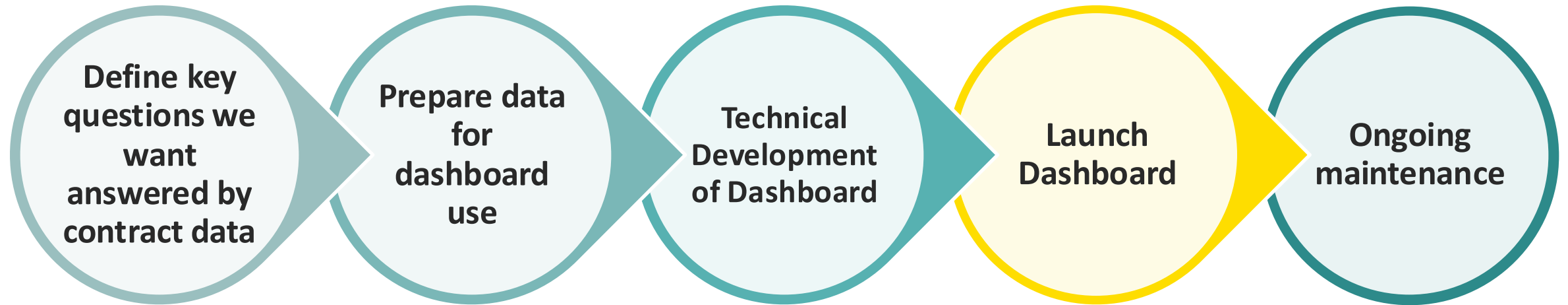
Current State Example

	Current State	Future: With Shared Standards
Example: “End date” field*	System 1: end date = original contract end date; amendments tracked separately. System 2: end date = manually updated by staff at each renewal.	A single, agreed-upon definition of "end date" consistently applied and updated across all systems.
<i>What this means for a dashboard</i>	<i>Sorting by end date wouldn't actually tell you when a contract is expiring.</i>	<i>Sorting by end date accurately reflects which contracts are expiring, regardless of source system.</i>

*Note: This is just *one* example of *one* field; systematic change and data governance will need to be part of our path forward



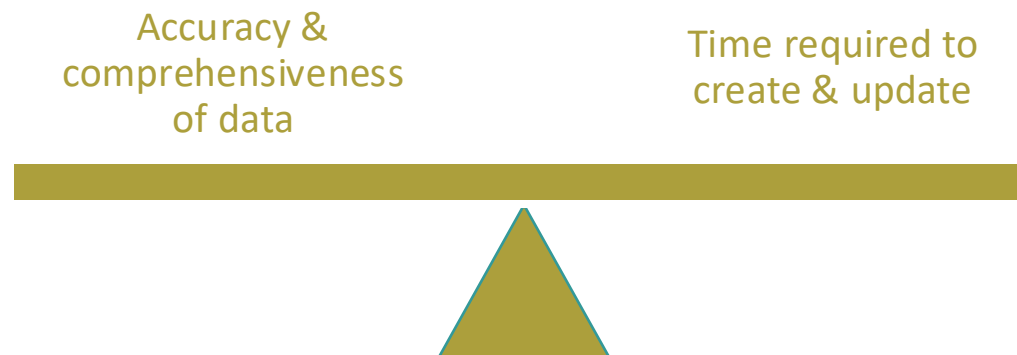
Path to a Dashboard



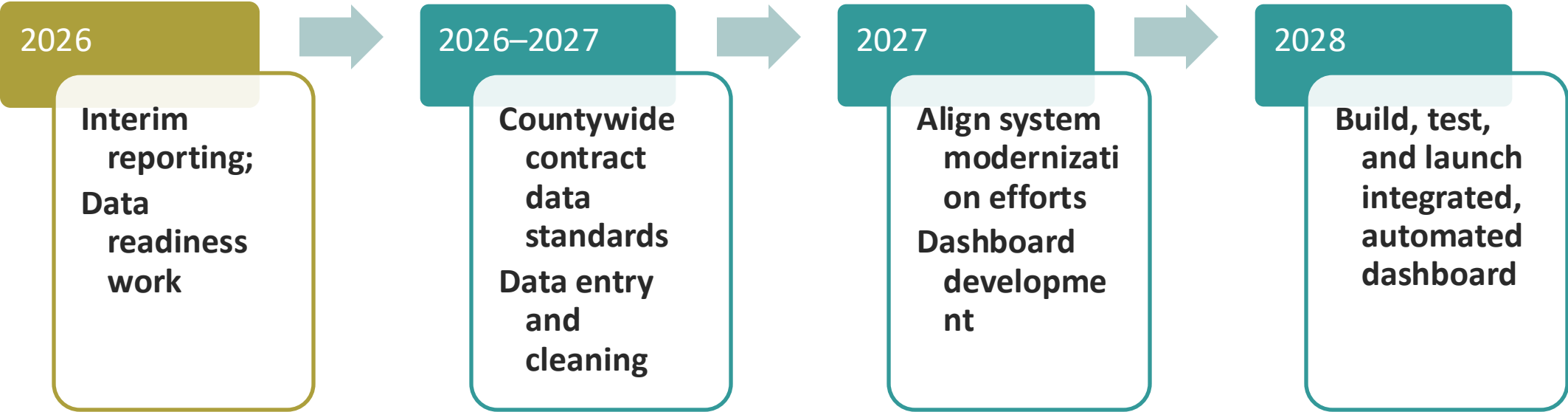
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This will likely be the most significant and complex part of the work ahead.

Interim Solution

- While we build a long-term solution, staff could manually compile and update a report of large contracts, with similar fields to the dashboard (e.g., vendor name, end date, total amount)
- Goal: **balance** accuracy and comprehensiveness of data with time investment required, so that an interim solution doesn't significantly slow progress on the long-term solution (i.e., a dashboard)



Estimated Timeline



Resource Considerations



Staff capacity diverted and/or automation costs for data entry and verification



Staff & leadership time for data governance



Potential future cost in more tailored, efficient system(s)



Training and support needed for consistency

Where we are going

Examples of what's possible **with the long-term solution**:

- ✓ Know which contracts are coming up for renewal
- ✓ See contracts a vendor holds across departments
- ✓ See where county dollars are going, and how much
- ✓ More efficiency – less time is spent pulling contract data for ad hoc inquiries because it is already available



Next steps

- **No action requested** (Informational report only)
- **Interim contract report:**
 - in progress, anticipated in the coming months
- **Dashboard:**
 - systems and cost assessments underway
 - will refine timeline and resource needs as exploration continues

