

Barton Community College Study Session

May 14, 2024

Student Housing Access Control

BARTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Staff have been researching access control/Student ID's for our Housing students for the last year. We currently have approximately 280 locksets included in this proposal.

Current issues with access control to dorms and dorm rooms include:

- Lost Keys requiring replacement keys and in some instances re-coring entire dorms (and replacement keys for all students).
- Cost of replacement keys (\$ 10 each).
- Students exchange of keys and rooms, without Housing Staff knowledge.
- Theft of keys.
- Student access to dorms/rooms during unauthorized times.

Current issues with access control to dorms and dorm rooms include (continued):

- Labor involved in issuing keys at the start of the semester, collection keys at the end of the semester and tracking of the keys.
- Labor involved in switching students from one room to another due capacity needs, roommate issues, etc.
- Lock out requiring Housing staff and/or Campus Safety to unlock rooms for students.
- Keys not being returned at the end of semesters (again requiring re-coring of locksets), billing of student, accounts receivable.
- Student safety/security.

Two different types of systems were researched.

- The first was a Switchcore system that allowed the current locksets to be retained, but the replacement of the core was necessary which converted the existing lock into an electronic access lock. While the upfront cost of this system is less expensive, the annual software costs are more expensive and within 5 years the cost of operation would exceed our recommended option. This option also uses the existing locksets which have anywhere from 10-30 years worth of wear on them. Cost of a traditional BEST lock is equal to an true electronic access lock.
- Service and Support for these devices comes out of Kansas City or Denver.

- The second option is the Salto Access Control System. This system replaces all locksets with true electronic access locksets. This system is offered by Nex-Tech (local vendor). There are no annual costs for the software or hosting, and although the total system is more expensive upfront, the 5-year cost of operation is less expensive than the Switchcore option.
- Service and Support are available locally.

The two locks being proposed (exterior and interior) are pictured below:



Benefits of the Electronic Access Control system:

- Unlimited expandability.
- Elimination of metal keys, replacement keys, re-coring.
- Management of key control and users is accomplished via computer software system.
- Electronic lock sets work online and offline.
- Lockdown features.
- Customize privileges, accessibility, expiration dates for users.
- Audit trails.
- Reprogrammable “keys”.

Benefits of the Electronic Access Control system (continued):

- **Students will have access using their phones, chipped stickers, cards, or key fobs. Typically, students carry phones, they don't always carry their metal key or their ID cards.**
- Increased Student safety and security.
- Reduced labor for key management.
- Data automatically loaded to software via an API from housing software/Banner.
- Reporting
- Alerts and notifications for items such as:
 - Low battery
 - Doors propped open
 - Attempted access

After researching both systems, we determined we wanted to test the Salto system. Nex-Tech agreed to install a test system on a few doors selected by our Housing staff. These units were installed on each type of dorm room that we have (some with direct exterior access, others with multiple student access, and the last with only interior access).

Overall, the test has been a success. Student like the system, the Housing/Campus Safety staff like the software and options available. Concerns that were identified during the test included:

- Some students (very few) do not have phones, or damage their phones, and must use chipped stickers, cards, or key fobs.
- Some international phones will not accept the app which also requires them to use the chipped stickers, cards, or key fobs.
- Questions/Concerns about short term summer camps.

Salto Access Control System (software/hardware) installations:

- Kansas Wesleyan (Salina) – 100 plus locksets
- Citizens Medical Center (Colby) – 150 plus locksets
- USD 435 Abilene School district – 150 plus locksets
- City of Great Bend – 25 plus locksets and expanding
- USD 428 Great Bend – All district buildings (200 plus locksets)
- Barton County – 50 plus locksets

Salto Access Control System (software/hardware/installation)

Cost - \$217,119.67

- It is possible that there will be some deductions from this cost as we are identifying doors that we may not need to include electronic access for.
- The purchase would be made with the Student Housing funds. These funds are not part of the College's operational General funds. This purchase has been planned for multiple years and the funds have been set aside within the Housing funds.
- Pending approval, the plan would be to have these locksets operational for Fall 2024 occupancy.

In addition to the electronic access system, we have also researched the options for student ID's.

- Currently, we print ID cards for all housing students (and additional select student groups/students upon request).
- These cards include mag stripes and barcodes which enable students to use our food service and library services.
- Unfortunately, a lot of students don't carry their keys/ID's, but most do carry their phones.

Our plan would be to implement the electronic ID subscription at the same time as the electronic access system. The student would receive their student ID via their phone and the ID would be active as long as they were enrolled. Cost is equal to the cost of printing cards with our current system.

Recommendation:

Approve the purchase of the Salto Electronic Access system as outlined above.