THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 27, 2023

Subject: State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Application

Staff Resource(s): Holly Barham, Craig Fedkenheuer Information Technology Services

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program funding of $100,000 to improve cybersecurity monitoring and network security for city water production networks.

Background:

- The federal government authorized the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant program, of which $1 billion was allocated to cybersecurity enhancements nationally over a four-year period starting in the fall of 2022.
- North Carolina was awarded $5.6 million as the state's portion of the cybersecurity funding under the IIJA and distributed through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLGCP).
- State and local government agencies must apply for the grant within a specified time period dictated by FEMA and, subsequently, the state of North Carolina.
- The next application deadline (unannounced) is anticipated to be June 30, 2023 for funding the 12-month period covering July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- Vendor outreach has been performed for both components of this project and will utilize existing city franchise agreement contractors and existing third-party contracts for the managed Security Information Event Management (SIEM) solution.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The City currently contracts with the Center for Information Security for SIEM for automated detection of external and internal cybersecurity threats, and the grant would fund an amendment to the existing contract to include the three water plants.
- For the proposed point-to-point campus radio network replacement, MC Communications, the City's current fiber optics vendor associated with the ERC franchise agreement, will be responsible for project implementation.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve and expand core services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Enhance existing cybersecurity monitoring and improve network security for critical city infrastructure

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- If awarded, this grant will provide $100,000 of funding to support the cybersecurity monitoring and network security project for City of Asheville water production networks.
- The total project cost is $159,001.31 and the Water Resources fund will cover the $59,001.31 balance.
- In subsequent years, the Water Resources fund will pay for the annual subscription cost for the SIEM contract ($43,793.85).
- Without this grant, this project would be funded with City resources over a longer implementation timeline.

- Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager to apply for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program funding of $100,000 to improve cybersecurity monitoring and network security for city water production networks.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY MONITORING AND NETWORK SECURITY FOR CITY WATER PRODUCTION NETWORKS.

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority to pursuant to North Carolina General Statute section 160a-17.1 to accept grants-in-aid and loans from the federal and State governments and their agencies for constructing, expanding, maintaining, and operating any project or facility, or performing any function, which such city or county may be authorized by general law or local act to provide or perform; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville supports expanding security infrastructure for core City systems; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, these funds would cover the managed security incident management and intrusion detection system and radio point-to-point campus network replacement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program funding of $100,000.00 to improve cybersecurity monitoring and network security for city water production networks and further authorized to enter into agreements for the managed security incident management and intrusion detection system and radio point-to-point campus network replacement.

Read, approved and adopted this the 27th day of June, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney