



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 28, 2024*

DATE: April 29, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jessica Adams-Lopes, Program Coordinator, Emergency Management
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THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$27,931.00, no County match required], to purchase an add-on module for Cortex XDR, a threat detection software. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This item recommends that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (the board) approve a FFY 2022 DHS grant passed through the SLCGP from the NDEM to purchase an add-on module for Cortex XDR, a threat detection software awarding [\$27,931.00, no County match required]. Grant term is retroactive to April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) grant is used to fund cybersecurity efforts to improve resiliency across the nation. The State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management has received this grant for the first time, as this is the inaugural funding year.

This grant is retroactive due to the delay of the US Department of Homeland Security releasing the funds to the Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts
Support a thriving community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program is new, and the board has not approved this grant before.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

This FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) grant is a new initiative set forth by DHS. The potential consequences of cyber incidents threaten national security. Strengthening cybersecurity practices and resilience of state, local, and territorial (SLT) governments is an important homeland security mission and the primary focus of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The SLCGP enables DHS to make targeted cybersecurity investments in SLT government agencies, thus improving the security of critical infrastructure and improving the resilience of the services SLT governments provide their community.

The FFY 2022 SLCGP aligns with the 2020-2024 DHS Strategic Plan by helping DHS achieve Goal 3: Secure Cyberspace and Critical Infrastructure, Objective 3.3. Assess and Counter Evolving Cybersecurity Risks. The FY 2022 SLCGP also supports the 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan which outlines a bold vision and three ambitious goals, including Goal 3: Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and Prepared Nation, Objective 3.2: Posture FEMA to meet current and emergent threats.

The Cortex XDR project supports the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security priorities and goals. This project directly relates to Objective 3: Implement security protections commensurate with risk. As a governmental organization, Washoe County must adhere to and comply with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 603A.210. In this policy, it is stated that governmental organizations must “comply with the current version of the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Controls as published by the Center for Internet Security, Inc.” Specifically, in the CIS Controls, numerous safeguards relate to security measures such as software inventory, access control, and the use of continuous vulnerability management tools (CIS Controls 2, 6, and 7, respectively). Currently, Washoe County uses Cortex XDR to conduct threat investigation and prevention across endpoints and networks. However, with the host insights add-on module, the team will have extended endpoint visibility, with the ability to find and remove malicious files promptly, provide visibility to quickly identify threats, and improve vulnerability management with Common Vulnerabilities and Exposure (CVE) metrics. This change will affect all county endpoints and networks, including rural communities.

This grant requires no match.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *FFY 2022 SLCGP Cortex XDR Host Insights*

Scope of the Project: *The benefit of this funding is to purchase an add-on module for Cortex XDR, a threat detection software.*

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *The benefit of this funding will be to improve resiliency to cyberattacks.*

On-Going Program Support: *If additional program support is needed past the enhancement phase, we will continue to seek grant funding.*

Award Amount: \$27,931.00

Grant Period: April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025

Funding Source: Department of Homeland Security

Pass Through Entity: Nevada Division of Emergency Management

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: 97.137

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY 24 Emergency Management adopted budget will be increased by \$27,931.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		
Emergency Management – Federal Grant	12366 - 431100	\$27,931.00
Expenditures:		
Emergency Management – Computer Software non Capital	12366 – 711509	\$27,931.00

Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award as no salary, or wages are included in the grant budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$27,931.00, no County match required], to purchase an add-on module for Cortex XDR, a threat detection software. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
“Move to approve the recommendation to approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$27,931.00, no County match required], to purchase an add-on module for Cortex XDR, a threat detection software. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through September 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”