



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 12, 2021*

DATE: Monday, December 28, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Deanna Spikula, Registrar of Voters
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THROUGH: Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the subgrant award from the Office of the Secretary of State in the amount of [\$2,995.00] for the purpose of reimbursing Washoe County for the cost of additional equipment needed for the Washoe County Registrar of Voters to participate in a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program as mandated in Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) in the 2019 Legislative Session (NRS 293.394). No match required. The subaward period is retroactive 8/15/2020 through 12/31/2020. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the subgrant award from the Office of the Secretary of State in the amount of [\$2,995.00] for the purpose of reimbursing Washoe County for the cost of additional equipment needed for the Washoe County Registrar of Voters to participate in a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program as mandated in Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) in the 2019 Legislative Session (NRS 293.394). No match required. The subaward period is retroactive 8/15/2020 through 12/31/2020. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action has been taken on this item.

BACKGROUND

NRS 293.247 requires procedures to be used for testing and auditing of a mechanical voting system which directly records the votes electronically and which creates a paper record when a voter casts a ballot on the system. Audit provisions are found in NAC 293.255 wherein a postelection certification audit of the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is conducting on at least 2% or 3% of a county's voting machines, depending on the

AGENDA ITEM # _____

county's population. This is considered as a traditional post-election audit and may be conducted by hand or by machine.

During the 2019 legislative session, SB 123 was passed and became NRS 293.394 wherein the Secretary of State is to adopt regulations for conducting a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program to be conducted post-election for the 2020 General Election. The Secretary of State requested Washoe County's participation in the pilot program. Risk-limiting audit (RLA) will be required of all counties in Nevada for the 2022 General Election. Risk-limiting audit (RLA) will not replace but will be an additional audit to our current traditional post-election audit.

The risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program is to facilitate a post-election audit on Absentee/Mail-In Ballots that were received during the 2020 General Election. This grant is to purchase and install imprinters on the Dominion ICC scanners in order to conduct an RLA audit.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: RLA Project

Scope of the Project: State subgrant to Washoe County from U.S. Election Assistance Commission for the purpose of covering increased election security with conducting a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program post 2020 General Election.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: These funds will be used to cover the costs for ink and imprinting for the Dominion ICC's to conduct the post-election risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program. With an additional audit being conducting on the election results will provide the citizens of Washoe County with added insurance of a transparent and secure election.

On-Going Program Support: These funds are a one-time allocation of funds for the specific purpose of covering the risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program after the 2020 General Election. There are no ongoing costs associated with the subgrant award.

Award Amount: \$2,995.00

Grant Period: *August 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020*

Funding Source: *U.S. Election Assistance Commission*

Pass Through Entity: *State of Nevada, Office of the Secretary of State*

CFDA Number: 90.404

Grant ID Number: NV18101001

Match Amount and Type: *No match required*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *No subawards. All contracting will comply with Uniform Guidance and Washoe County Grant Policy*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 Registrar of Voters adopted budget will be increased by \$2,995.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO – 11806	431100 – Federal Grants	\$2,995.00
IO – 11806	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$195.00
IO – 11806	711504 – Equipment nonCapital	\$2,800.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the acceptance of the subgrant award from the Office of the Secretary of State in the amount of [\$2,995.00] for the purpose of reimbursing Washoe County for the cost of additional equipment needed for the Washoe County Registrar of Voters to participate in a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program as mandated in Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) in the 2019 Legislative Session (NRS 293.394). No match required. The subaward period is retroactive 8/15/2020 through 12/31/2020. If approved, 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 subgrant award from the Office of the Secretary of State in the amount of [\$2,995.00] for the purpose of reimbursing Washoe County for the cost of additional equipment needed for the Washoe County Registrar of Voters to participate in a risk-limiting audit (RLA) pilot program as mandated in Senate Bill 123 (SB 123) in the 2019 Legislative Session (NRS 293.394). No match required. The subaward period is retroactive 8/15/2020 through 12/31/2020. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments."