



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *November 19, 2024*

DATE: October 7, 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 [\$77,000.00, no County match required], to enhance the critical judicial network and database systems through audit remediation and network build up. Grant term is retroactive from September 26, 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 for audit remediation and network build up awarding [\$77,000.00, no County match required]; Grant term is retroactive to September 26, 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.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

May 21, 2024 - The Board of County Commissioners approved the FFY 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) projects for \$44,000.00; \$27,931.00; and \$35,000.00.

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 FFY 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 Audit Remediation and Network Build Up project supports the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security priorities and goals. This project directly relates to Objective 2: Understand their current cybersecurity posture and areas for improvement based on continuous testing, evaluation, and structured assessments.

The Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) is seeking funding to enhance the critical judicial network and database systems. As a separate branch of government, SJDC is funded within Washoe County but must maintain completely separate networks and database systems from the Executive Branch. The SJDC plans to implement this funding to improve and continuity test and evaluate the security of its network by hiring a cyber security auditing company to take a deep dive into our network, applications, and security and improve their posture and standard to harden against Cyber-attacks and intrusions. This professional assessment will include an assessment of their current state in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards and framework. The SJDC will also utilize this funding to hire a professional cyber security firm to evaluate their active directory and cloud security and then provide remediation to harden security standards. Additional Next Generation Firewall interfaces and firewalls will also be added to allow the Court network traffic to be segmented, filtered, and inspected against cyber-attacks and intrusions. Additional network switches would be purchased to replace out-of-date and insecure switches. This grant requires no match.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *FFY 2022 SLCGP Audit Remediation & Network Build Up*

Scope of the Project: *The benefit of this funding is to source a cyber security auditing company to take a deep dive into our network, applications, and security and improve our posture and standard to harden against Cyber-attacks and intrusions.*

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: \$77,000.00

Grant Period: September 26, 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: *Professional service contracts for the annual penetration testing will be procured using the County’s competitive bid process and federal grant procurement guidelines as required under 2 CFR 200.*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY 24 Emergency Management adopted budget will be increased by \$77,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		
Emergency Management – Federal Grant	12448 - 431100	\$77,000.00
Expenditures:		
Emergency Management – Professional Services	12448 - 710100	\$77,000.00

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 [\$77,000.00, no County match required], to enhance the critical judicial network and database systems through audit remediation and network build up. Grant term is retroactive from September 26, 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 [\$77,000.00, no County match required], to enhance the critical judicial network and database systems through audit remediation and network build up. Grant term is retroactive from September 26, 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.”