



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorize an application for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of the IT Department's application for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The IT Department applied for the initial round of grant funding in January 2024, but the application was not approved. Upon inquiry, additional details were asked to be provided in the application.

In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a first-of-its-kind cybersecurity grant program specifically for state, local, and territorial governments across the country. \$1 billion in funding will be dispersed over four years, with \$375 million allocated this year. The State of Oregon applied for a portion of this grant money and has approximately \$15 million in funding available.

Local and Tribal governments are eligible subrecipients under this program and must apply for funds through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM).

The IT Department seeks Board approval to re-apply for grant funding for the same two projects, the first of which involves migrating the County's web and email presence from deschutes.org to deschutescounty.gov. Because .gov domains are reserved for government entities, in completing this project, the County will enhance its cyber credibility, foster trust with residents, and meet requirements for specific grant opportunities. Staff requests Board approval to apply for \$71,700 in grant funding to complete this project.

The second project would address the remediation of cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Vulnerabilities have been identified in our environment which require a great deal of time and resources to address. This work is important as it will strengthen our security posture, mitigate risk, and address compliance requirements. Staff requests Board approval to apply for \$176,000 of grant funds to complete this work.

The Department plans to outsource the work associated with both projects. No match funds are required.

The second round of grant applications is due by October 15, 2024. Successful applicants are expected to complete projects within 24 months.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

To be determined. No grant match is required.

ATTENDANCE:

Tania Mahood, IT Director/CTO