



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Request to apply for 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:

In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security 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 available¹.

Local and Tribal governments are eligible subrecipients under this program and must apply for funds through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM must obligate at least 80 percent of funds awarded to local and territorial governments.

The IT Department is seeking Board approval to apply for grant funding for two projects through this program. The first project would provide funding to assist with migrating the County's web and email presence from deschutes.org to deschutescounty.gov.

Migrating from Deschutes.org to Deschutes.gov will require significant resources. Because .gov domains are reserved for government entities only, by 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 submit an application in the amount of \$71,700 to complete this project.

The second project would provide funding to remediate cybersecurity vulnerabilities. There have been vulnerabilities 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 request Board approval to submit an application in the amount of \$176,000 to complete this project.

The Department plans to outsource the work associated with both projects.

The first round of grant applications are due by January 10, 2024. Successful applicants are expected to complete projects within 24 months.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

To be determined. No match funds are required.

ATTENDANCE:

Tania Mahood, IT Director/CTO