

**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Approval to Use Cyclone Port Grant Application Services  
**Author:** Kathy Candler, Grants Coordinator  
**Department:** Emergency Management Agency (EMA) & Fire Department  
**Meeting Date:** 10/15/2024  
**Item Description:** Consideration for the Effingham County Board of Commissioners (ECBOC) to use the Grant Application Services provided by Cyclone Port to assist in identifying and securing private corporation grants.

**Summary Recommendation:**

Staff request ECBOC's approval to use the Grant Application Services provided by Cyclone Port to assist in identifying and securing private corporation grants. The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Fire Department will provide the necessary information, while Cyclone Port's experts—well-versed in individual grant processes—will handle the grant writing. The county will then use this information to complete and submit each grant application. The total cost will not exceed \$30,000.

**Executive Summary:**

Effingham County is seeking permission to utilize the grant-writing services of Cyclone Port to identify and apply for private corporation grants. The EMA and Fire Department will provide relevant data, and Cyclone Port, with its expertise in grant processes, will develop competitive grant applications on the county's behalf.

One project that could benefit from these grants is implementing Cyclone Port's advanced weather station system. Cyclone Port's weather stations provide real-time, hyper-local weather data using advanced sensor technology. These stations offer live monitoring, customizable alerts, and precise forecasting, enhancing the county's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. By leveraging this service, the county could obtain crucial funding to support public safety efforts without exceeding a budget of \$30,000.

**Background:**

Securing grants from private corporations can be complex and highly competitive. Many grants require professionally written applications that align with strict funding criteria. Cyclone Port specializes in identifying appropriate funding opportunities and crafting high-quality grant proposals, increasing the likelihood of securing funding. The EMA and Fire Department will collaborate with Cyclone Port by supplying necessary information, and the service will handle the grant-writing process.

**Alternatives for the Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve the use of Cyclone Port's Grant Application Services.
2. Do not approve the request, requiring county staff to prepare grant applications internally, which may reduce the likelihood of success due to resource limitations.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

**Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative 1 – Approval to engage Cyclone Port's Grant Application Services.

**Department Review:**

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Fire Department

**Funding Source:**

The total county cost for utilizing Cyclone Port's Grant Application Services will not exceed \$30,000 and will be allocated from [Insert Funding Source, e.g., General Fund or Emergency Management Budget].