

## **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Enhanced Email Protection Platform

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**Department:** Information Technology

**Meeting Date:** 02/18/2025

**Item Description:** Approval of 3-year contract for an Enhanced Email Protection Solution. An AI-driven cybersecurity solution designed to enhance email security, detect threats, and prevent phishing, malware, and impersonation attacks. This contract will replace the current email security platform, resulting in enhanced security and cost savings over the contract term.

### **Summary Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the approval of a 3-year contract to purchase and implement an AI-powered email security solution. This solution will replace the current email security platform, which is more expensive and less effective in addressing emerging cyber threats.

### **Executive Summary/Background:**

Cybersecurity threats, particularly email-based attacks, have increased in frequency and sophistication. To better protect Effingham County Board of Commissioners, the IT Department conducted an evaluation of alternative email security solutions to replace the existing platform.

After reviewing multiple vendors, this AI-driven Email Protection Platform was selected as the preferred solution due to:

- AI-driven threat detection that adapts to evolving cyber risks
- Behavioral analysis to detect unusual activity and prevent phishing, ransomware, and impersonation attacks
- Automated response capabilities to neutralize threats in real-time
- Seamless integration with existing email systems (e.g., Microsoft 365)
- Lower cost compared to the current platform, resulting in cost savings of \$5,143.25 per year, totaling \$15,429.75 savings over 3 years.

### **Alternatives for Consideration:**

1. Approve the 3-year procurement contract for enhanced email protection, replacing the current platform.
2. Approve a 1-year contract for enhanced email protection, replacing the current platform.
3. Continue using the current email security platform.

### **Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1

**Department Review:** Information Technology & County Manager

**Funding Source:**

Total: \$143,535.00 to be paid from the IT Budget for Computer Maint & Software Agreements, with annual payments of \$47,845.

**Attachments:**

1. 3 year – Email Protection Quote.pdf