CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: April 14, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consider approval of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training for City Leadership.

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

As artificial intelligence (AI) technology continues to evolve rapidly, it is increasingly influencing decision-making and provides efficiency across both public and private sectors. To ensure our city remains informed, forward-thinking, and prepared to responsibly implement these tools, we are recommending AI training for our city leadership.

Understanding how AI works, along with understanding the limitations of AI, will allow our leadership to make informed decisions. AI introduces ethical issues, including privacy, bias, and transparency. Training will empower leaders to navigate these issues thoughtfully and proactively shape responsible AI usage. It is crucial that our leadership and staff understand the potential risks and unintended consequences of AI.

We are recommending approval of a 5-hour workshop focused on AI training, tailored for public sector leaders. This training will be facilitated by Mark Gill, a technology evangelist and director of the St. Cloud State University Visualization Lab. Mr. Gill teaches courses in software engineering and is passionate about AI. The city IT department is reviewing the AI workshop outline. Information and learning obtained during the AI training will also be shared with city staff. If approved, this training will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in Council Chambers from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The expense of this training will be paid from all departments, city-wide.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to approve a 5-hour workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI), facilitated by Mark Gill, as specified in the independent contractor agreement.