



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/13/2026

REQUESTER: Kari Madden, IT Manager

PRESENTER: Tim Powers, Director of Information Technology

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2627-76 AND A GRANT FROM OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY: STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM SUB-RECIPIENT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$142,000 TO BE USED BY THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL FIREWALLS FOR DEPLOYMENT WITHIN OUR NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF STATEWIDE HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS SERVING OUR INTERNAL NETWORK USE AND OPERATIONS, ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION R-2627-61 AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE SPECIAL GRANT FUND BALANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman has been selected to receive \$142,000 from the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS) fiscal year funding 2024 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). These funds are designated for a project request in the amount of \$142,000 to provide additional firewalls for security within the City network. These devices are critical and core to closing security gaps within our network and providing layered approaches necessary for the security of critical and core data to the daily operations for the City. The Information Technology Department is responsible for securing all sensitive data stored on City network servers and securing operations associated with all daily operations of the City of Norman.

DISCUSSION:

This Investment Justification addresses the identified gap in internal network visibility and security by implementing next-generation firewalls at Layer 3 network head ends to inspect, monitor, and control inter-VLAN traffic. The project supports the organization's Cybersecurity Plan by strengthening network segmentation, improving visibility into what is referred to as east-west traffic, and enabling enforcement of granular security policies based on Zero Trust principles.

Deploying these firewalls will allow the organization to inspect traffic between internal network segments, detect unauthorized or suspicious communications, and limit opportunities for lateral movement by malicious actors. The enhanced visibility will improve threat detection, incident response, and security monitoring while providing the information needed to make informed risk management decisions.

By addressing this critical infrastructure gap, the project strengthens the organization's ability to protect critical systems and maintain a resilient cybersecurity posture.

Due to the high cost of cybersecurity IT continues to look at means to secure tax dollars back into our community through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). That success has dramatically improved our cybersecurity posture.

The grant funds have afforded the City no impact on City funds through the zero match of these grants. The time of the official grant awards from CISA and FEMA and time to return signed documents to accept these funds generally do not align with our time requirements to get items onto a Council agenda. This has caused hardships for staff. To prevent the risk of late responses and possibly jeopardizing grant funds we are asking for a resolution to allow the Mayor or City Manager to sign the necessary documents when issued so staff can return them and meet deadlines of these funding sources. Staff sought to find alternate funding sources due to strained City budgets, and it relieves funds for other projects when we are diligent in working to bring tax dollars like this back into our community. This item provides you the details of the upcoming approved award, the amount which again has a zero match for City dollars. The grant is a reimbursable grant therefore require allocations initially.

RECOMMENDATION No. 1:

Approval and acceptance of the grant by Council and contract K-2627-76. The document signatures by the authorized person and dating of the OKOHS Memorandum, the Award Document, the Sub-Recipient Terms and Conditions and Signature Authorization will be available once FEMA releases them to Oklahoma Homeland Security.

RECOMMENDATION No. 2:

Approval of Resolution R-2627-61 authorizing the Mayor and/or City Manager to sign all necessary documents to accept the funding once appropriated by FEMA and return them timely as to prevent loss of the grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION No. 3:

Appropriation of \$142,000 from the Special Grant Fund balance (22-29000); and allocate \$142,000 to the Homeland Security Grant (IT0052, Account No. 22123645-45301). Upon reimbursement, deposit funds into the Other Revenue/Homeland Security (Account No. 221-333352).