



Memorandum

Date: August 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Rey Valdes
City Manager

Department: Eylin Fernandez
Acting Information Technology Director

Subject: **Firewall Maintenance and Support Renewal**

Introduction

The Information Technology Department respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council Members approve the renewal of maintenance and support for the city's firewall from Clarium Managed Services.

Background

The city's firewall serves as the primary defense against cyber threats. It prevents unauthorized access, malware, and other malicious activities from compromising our sensitive data and systems. A well-maintained firewall ensures the protection of our digital assets, reducing the risk of data breaches, downtime, and potential financial losses resulting from cyberattacks.

A robust firewall is crucial for complying with data protection regulations, helping to avoid potential legal penalties and financial risks. Moreover, the subscription ensures timely technical support, access to updates, and expert assistance, all of which collectively contribute to minimizing downtime and strengthening cybersecurity against emerging threats.

It is important to note that Section 119.0725 (b) of the Florida Statutes creates a public records exemption related to cybersecurity. Specifically, the statute makes confidential and exempt from public record requirements any information related to critical infrastructure. Additionally, any

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portion of a meeting that might reveal such information is also exempt from public meeting requirements. See Section 119.0725(3), Florida Statutes.

Procurement

Section 2-322 of the City Code of Ordinances provides that the City may enter into contracts procured by other public entities and cooperative purchasing ventures. Accordingly, the City may solicit the services provided by vendors participating in TIPS Contract# 220105 Technology Solutions Products and Services.

Fiscal Impact

For FY23/24, the Fiscal Impact will be \$58,809.86 with funds allocated in the IT Maintenance and Repair Account # 001.22005.500460.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Renewing the maintenance and support for the city's firewall aligns with the strategic plan of public safety and exceptional service by providing a critical defense against unauthorized access and cyber threats, thus protecting sensitive city data and public safety information. It ensures the reliability and security of the city's IT infrastructure, minimizing service disruptions and enabling efficient incident response. This proactive approach enhances public trust and confidence in the city's ability to safeguard information. By aligning with broader IT strategies, it prepares the city for future technological challenges, ensuring robust public safety measures and exceptional service delivery to residents.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council Members authorize using TIPS Contract # 220105 Technology Solutions Products and Services to renew maintenance and support for the city's firewall from Clarium Managed Services in an amount not to exceed \$58,809.86. Funds are allocated in the IT Maintenance and Repair Account # 001.22005.500460.