



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

February 11, 2020

SUBJECT: Council Discussion and Consideration to Authorize the Purchase of Network Security Enhancements and Adopt Resolution No. 06-20 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Alliant Networking Services

PREPARED BY: Susan Mahoney, Finance Director

Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to spend a one-time cost of \$19,230 to purchase security enhancement software and hardware for the City's computer networks at City Hall, the Police Building and the Public Works Building. Adopt Resolution No. 06-20 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Alliant Networking Services for the City's ongoing IT services.

Background

The City of Wheatland currently has three separate computer networks; City Hall, Police, and Public Works. Our IT service provider is Vision Quest. They have been with the City for many years and have been responsive to our calls for service. The average monthly cost for their maintenance service has been \$600.

The City uses IBackup, an online backup and restore service that accesses data from the City's computers at a set time every 24 hours and stores the data at one of its data center locations. IBackup provides basic file recovery (raw data files only). It does not back up server settings, file permissions, operating systems or financial system programs.

The security level at each location is considered "basic" meaning there is no traffic monitoring to scan or filter destructive data (cyberattacks) trying to get into the network. The anti-virus software currently being used is considered a "plain solution" and is not as successful at detecting some viruses as commercial solutions.

City Hall	This network consists of the Finance Department, City Clerk, and City Manager workstations and one server. A backup of financial information is performed nightly using IBackup software.
Police Building	This network consists of nine workstations and one server. A backup is performed nightly using IBackup software.
Public Works Building	This network consists of four workstations and no server. A backup is performed nightly using IBackup software.

Discussion

The following recent concerns prompted staff to review the City’s three computer networks and IT support services:

- Our IT provider recommended replacement of the City Hall server as it is no longer reliable and no longer supported by Microsoft
- The recent increase in costly cyberattacks against public agencies including large and small cities
- The increased scrutiny of the City’s computer security, backups, and monitoring by our insurance provider and our auditor

Proposals were requested to provide the needed hardware and software to address these issues.

Quotes were received from our current IT provider, Vision Quest and Alliant Networking Services. The monthly cost for both proposals includes onsite support and advanced anti-virus, firewalls, and backup capabilities. Monthly IT services will more than double under both proposals due to necessary enhanced monitoring and backups. Monitoring and backups are critical to recovering from a cyberattack or catastrophic failure. The initial one-time cost for both proposals includes replacement of certain hardware and the addition of backup devices and firewalls.

	Vision Quest	Alliant
Monthly IT Services	\$2,100	\$1,267
One-time new server	\$4,000	\$4,176
One-time firewalls, backup devices, installation	\$15,054*	\$15,054
<i>*Vision Quest quote assumes City will purchase backups and firewalls</i>		

Staff is recommending that the City contract with Alliant Networking for IT services. They currently provide service to Marysville, Live Oak, Colusa, Yuba Sutter Transit, Reclamation Districts 784 and 1500, and Yuba City Charter School. They have a reputation for professionalism and a proactive approach to providing IT services.

Alternatives

Direct staff to replace the City Hall server only and keep the current level of security, backup and monitoring.

Fiscal Impact

There are sufficient funds in the General Fund reserve to pay for the one-time hardware and software upgrades. The monthly increase of \$667 for IT services will be allocated between the General Fund (60%) and the Water and Wastewater Funds (20% each). The additional monthly cost can be covered in the FY 2020 budget.

Attachments

1. Reso No. 06-20

RESOLUTION NO. 06-20

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
ALLIANT NETWORKING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the recent increase in costly cyberattacks against public agencies including large and small cities poses a significant concern to the City; and

WHEREAS, there is increased scrutiny of the City's computer security, backups, and monitoring by our insurance provider and financial auditor; and

WHEREAS the City of Wheatland is seeking to upgrade and enhance the City's computer networks to provide adequate anti-virus, firewalls, and backup capabilities to address these concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Wheatland hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Alliant Networking Services to replace servers and provide enhanced monthly information technology services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California this 11th day of February 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Rick West, Mayor