



City Council Report

Date: October 18, 2021
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Travis Cutright, DoIT CIO
Subject: Subrecipient Agreement with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity Threat Visibility Enrichment Project

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Department of Innovation and Technology is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council authorize the City Manager or his designee to approve and execute a Subrecipient Agreement with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. The Agreement provides \$132,690 to the Mesa Fire and Medical Department for cybersecurity software products administered by the DoIT Cybersecurity Team.

Background

The United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHHS) through the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) Grant Program provides grant funding to support areas of cybersecurity to support a response to a terrorist incident, foreign or domestic, and aid in the prevention of such events. The AZDOHS 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program has identified funds for the City of Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Department of Innovation and Technology of \$132,690. If approved, the funding will be used to support the City's ability to prevent and respond to acts of cyberterrorism.

Discussion

The Mesa Fire and Medical Department is part of the Phoenix Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The 2021 funds will be used to acquire three cybersecurity tools, which are a part of the Threat Data Enrichment project. The project will strengthen the security team's ability to identify, protect, detect, respond, and recover from persistent attackers' certainty through providing 24x7 automated coverage and all through one integrated dashboard. The 2021 UASI grant will provide \$132,690 for:

- Splunk Response Automation - automates the response to cyber threats and incidents as identified by Mesa's enterprise automated threat hunting platforms (SIEM, aka SPLUNK). Acts as a force multiplier to existing Security Team and enhances 24/7 coverage
- Log Data Pre-processing (ex. Cribble) - provides the ability to parse, dedup, sanitize, and normalize data from any source, but will be leveraged to reduce overall costs and accommodate future Smart-City data growth for analyzing threat data on

higher-cost consumption-priced analytic platforms

- Partial funding for Insider threat - used to identify and prevent data theft, risky data handling practices, and unsecure business processes; provides a view of where PHI, cardholder data, PII, etc. is being used or moved.

Alternatives

If the Subrecipient Agreement is not approved, the funding will remain with the State to be distributed to other Valley agencies resulting in a loss of funding for the Mesa Fire and Medical Department and the Mesa Department of Innovation technology security team.

Fiscal Impact

The award amount is \$132,690 and no match is required. Approving the use of these grant funds will allow the City of Mesa to accept grant funding allocated to the Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Cybersecurity Team of DoIT.

Coordinated With

This grant funding will be managed through the Mesa Fire and Medical Department and Department of Innovation and Technology, and they are both in support of this resolution.