

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: July 24, 2024

Business Item: 2024-198 SW

Comprehensive Security Platform, Contract 24P210

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 14-2, Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy Minn. Statute § 471.345

Staff Prepared/Presented: Gretchen White, Chief Information Officer, 651-602-1443

Division/Department: Regional Administration/Information Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P210 with PDS to purchase and implement a Comprehensive Security Platform for a not-to-exceed amount to \$4,500,000.

Background

Why is this needed? A security risk analysis completed by Department of Homeland Security identified gaps in the Council's ability to identify and respond effectively to malicious activities. The IS Department is purchasing a comprehensive security platform using Palo Alto/Cortex equipment and maintenance services costing an estimated \$4.5 million

What will this do for us? This acquisition will enhance the Council's security posture in multiple areas.

1. **Improve Detection:** Strengthen security by enhancing detection capabilities on user endpoints and within the data center.
2. **Detailed Visibility:** Achieve comprehensive visibility of all network traffic by application, user, and content, enabling more precise and effective policy enforcement.
3. **Streamline Operations:** Automate and integrate core security operations to reduce manual tasks. Palo Alto Firewalls can significantly minimize routine work, allowing the Council's IT team to focus on strategic security initiatives.
4. **Expand Coverage:** Implement Managed Detection and Response (MDR) for 24/7 coverage.
5. **Forensic Analysis:** Enhance forensic analysis and support to improve mean time to recovery for security incidents.

To procure this equipment and software, the Council will utilize State of Minnesota released Contract C-1121(5) which is a multi-vendor cooperative agreement for purchasing cloud solutions and web-based software. The Council has statutory authority under Minnesota Statutes §471.345 to utilize such cooperative service agreements.

Rationale

The execution of a professional services contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This contract will further advance the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability by ensuring reliability, resilience, security, and cost-effectiveness which is critical to the Council's daily efficient operation.

Funding

The Comprehensive Security Platform has been included in the Information Services budget using local funds.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not establish a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal as this contract will be procured utilizing a state contract.

