

## **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION/REPORT**

The District President recommends the Board of Trustees approve a contract to purchase a network security monitoring system from Secureworks through Carahsoft Technology Group (Carahsoft) for the Technology Services Department.

## **BACKGROUND**

With the advancement of technology and the proliferation of computer systems and cyber networks, large breaches or exposure of confidential information and emerging cybersecurity threats are becoming more frequent. The District must be prepared to respond to such events to ensure that essential business processes are not slowed or stopped due to an incident and that student and employee data is not compromised. Adequate detection capabilities will improve the ability to quickly discover a breach and provide the information necessary to respond promptly and thoroughly.

Reference number (REF) 4392 was issued to track the volume of spend for the network security monitoring system.

Carahsoft has a contract through the DIR cooperative purchasing program to provide Education IT Products and Services, Contract Number DIR-CPO-4444, and follows the competitive procurement requirements outlined in Section 44.031 of the Texas Education Code, as permitted through Section 791.011 of the Texas Government Code.

## **IMPACT OF THIS ACTION**

The Texas Cybersecurity Council was created by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to ensure that critical infrastructure and sensitive information are protected. DIR established baseline security standards for Texas state agencies and institutions of higher education. SecureWorks's solution meets requirements for all security plans to include the DIR security plan required by Texas HB 3834. Secureworks will provide the initial tools the District needs to prevent, mitigate, and investigate cyber threats and attacks on the District's network.

## **BUDGET INFORMATION (INCLUDING ANY STAFFING IMPLICATIONS)**

This purchasing request is for spend authorization of \$550,000, which is budgeted in the Technology Services FY21 operating budget and subsequent year's budget subject to Board approval.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING TIMELINE**

The contract term will be three (3) years beginning November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2023.

## **RESOURCE PERSONNEL**

Mike Dickson, Chief Innovation Officer  
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