



Department Source: Information Technology

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 3, 2022

Re: Enter into a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement with FoxGuard Solutions Inc.

Executive Summary

Staff is requesting authority for the City Manager to enter into a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with FoxGuard Solutions Inc. FoxGuard Solutions Inc, offers a comprehensive patch management solution that may be used to support Columbia Water & Light Department (CWLD) North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) - 007 Cyber Security – Systems Security Management obligations.

Discussion

CWLD CIP-007 System Security Management program is designed to meet NERC CIP-007 Cyber Security – Systems Security Management Requirement 2. The CWLD and Information Technology (IT) departments are required to identify a source, or sources, for applicable Cyber Assets that are updateable and a patching source exists. Each patch source is required to be evaluated on or about the first business day of every calendar month to determine if cybersecurity patches have been released since the previous evaluation date.

Comprehensive patch management is critical to protecting CWLD Bulk Electric System (BES) assets from cybersecurity threats and maintain the safe and reliable operation of BES assets owned by the City.

IT staff currently spend approximately 60 to 80 hours during the first week of every month checking and tracking each patch source. This is a manual process that is prone to human error and could expose CWLD BES assets to cybersecurity risk and lead to instance of non-compliance and enforcement actions by CWLD's regional enforcement authority SERC Reliability Corporation (SERC).

Entering into an NDA agreement with FoxGuard Solutions Inc. would allow staff to explore the benefits of contracting FoxGuard Solutions Inc. to be the patch source for applicable Cyber Assets and mitigate human error.

The NDA agreement is required so that FoxGuard Solutions Inc. can be provided a list of operating system, intentionally installed software, and firmware that CWLD would require tracked on a monthly basis. FoxGuard Solutions Inc. requires this information prior to providing a quote for services on an annual basis.

The NDA agreement does not obligate the City to purchase patch management services from FoxGuard Solutions Inc.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Operational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action

Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends Council authorize the City Manager to enter into the NDA with FoxGuard Solutions Inc.