



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: November 21, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Earle M. Chesley, P. E., General Services Director

Subject: Authorization to accept and appropriate up to \$100,000 for a Cyber Security Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for city's Water and Wastewater Plants

Recommendation

Accept this report and set the attached resolution, appropriating up to \$100,000 from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), for a public hearing on January 9, 2023.

Background

City Council authorized the City Manager on August 8, 2022 to apply for a grant in the amount up to \$100,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Cyber Security Provisions for the Water and Wastewater Plants Operations Controls

The Water Treatment Plant and the two Wastewater Treatment plants rely heavily on technology to maximize operational savings to their respective enterprise funds, and ultimately their rate payers. This reliance on technology requires access to open platforms which allow remote access for operators, and alarming protocol to reach operators immediately and timely.

In consultation with the City's Information Technology Department, General Services' water and waste water divisions completed a vulnerability assessment and identified certain measures to enhance our facilities cyber security and mitigate the potential impact from a cyber security attack.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will provide grant funding for water and wastewater utilities not to

exceed \$50,000 per utility. With two distinct utilities, this represents a potential total of \$100,000 for the City (\$50,000 water, \$50,000 wastewater).

Discussion

General Services Department staff has been advised by NHDES that the cyber security grant application has been approved for up to \$100,000 split between the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Cc Jonathan Smullen, Interim, Information Technology Director
Marco Philippon, Water Superintendent
Daniel Drisoll, Wastewater Superintendent