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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 25, 2025

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Georgia Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer
Edna Jackson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Operations & Administration
Patricia Avitia, Chief Information Officer

FROM: Natalie McCrory, Manager, Information Technology Project Management
Kayleigh Hanna, Information Technology Project Manager

SUBJECT: Networking Infrastructure Refresh Contract

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute a contract with Netsync to update networking equipment in an amount not to exceed \$315,000.

BACKGROUND

The Network Infrastructure Refresh initiative enhances infrastructure that is the foundation of all Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) technology and operational needs. The Networking Infrastructure Refresh initiative--with a main goal to upgrade the TWDB network and firewall infrastructure--began at the end of fiscal year 2024 using agency allocated funding. The agency allocated funding was in lieu of an exceptional item request proposed by the Information Technology Division.

This refresh is essential, as all current switches and firewalls are approaching end of support. The first phase of the Networking Infrastructure Refresh initiative, the firewall upgrade, is now well underway. The second phase of this initiative, the network switch upgrade, is ready for implementation.

The current proposed Statement of Work totals \$293,000, which includes approximately \$213,000 for the purchase of the new equipment and \$80,000 for professional services required for the configuration and implementation of the new equipment. The requested not to exceed rate of \$315,000 will provide the Executive Administrator with some additional authority if necessary for project completion.

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Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

New equipment will enable updates that are critical for maintaining network security and providing adequate bandwidth to address the needs of the growing agency. Contract priorities include upgrading network security, refreshing outdated software and hardware, and expanding user licenses, network bandwidth, and efficiency.

Netsync was selected as the vendor for this Networking Infrastructure Refresh initiative from the Department of Information Resources' vendor list through a competitive bidding process. Netsync started the first phase of the initiative at the start of this fiscal year and has performed satisfactorily under the agreement.

Installing the new equipment will take Netsync from three to four months, followed by three months of installation support. TWDB's Information Technology Division will provide fiber connectivity to the new equipment, manage migration to the new network, and partner with Netsync in the testing and troubleshooting processes.

KEY ISSUES

Refresh of the agency's networking infrastructure is essential to security, stability, and performance of agency operations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute a contract, not to exceed \$315,000, with Netsync for a TWDB networking infrastructure refresh, necessary to ensure a secure, modern, and scalable environment that supports the agency's mission now and into the future.