

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: July 6, 2021

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals for Qualified Hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI) Firm to Assist with the Upgrade of the City's VMware Virtual Infrastructure to a Hyperconverged Infrastructure

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SUMMARY

With the vast changes in the City's IT Support Infrastructure, Service Management Processes and Procedures, the City's current VMware virtual infrastructure which includes a Storage Area Network (SAN) with an end-of-life support is no longer adequate to support the Information Technology goals and objectives of the City. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been prepared for a qualified technology firm to assist with the upgrade of the City's VMware virtual infrastructure to a Hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI). The HCI design will provide flexibility, resiliency, enhanced security and future expandability of the City's network infrastructure.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-73:

1. Authorizing the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified technology firms to assist with the upgrade of the City's VMware virtual infrastructure to a Hyperconverged Infrastructure.
2. Allocating up to \$210,000 from IT Reserves to the upgrade of the City's VMware virtual infrastructure

BACKGROUND

The City has an Information Technology Strategic Plan which calls for the replacement of obsolete equipment in a timely fashion to ensure continuity of critical City systems. The current VMware virtual environment was developed several years ago to replace obsolete physical servers and create a cost and energy efficient, scalable infrastructure in which to run critical City systems. With the vast changes in the City's IT Support Infrastructure, Service Management Processes and Procedures, the existing virtual infrastructure which includes a Storage Area Network (SAN) with an end-of-life support is no longer adequate to support the Information Technology goals and objectives of the City.

DISCUSSION

Upgrading the virtual infrastructure to an HCI design is necessary to provide additional flexibility, resilience, enhanced security and future expandability of the City's and Police Department network infrastructure to ensure business continuity. With the release of a Request for Proposals, the City is seeking a firm that will have proven experience, knowledge and expertise to assist with the upgrade of the City's VMware virtual infrastructure to a Hyperconverged Infrastructure. It is anticipated that the new solution will last between 5 to 8 years and be scalable allowing for growth over time by adding storage or nodes to existing clusters. Qualified firms are to submit a proposal for design, equipment, software and services required for the migration from an existing VMware environment to a hyperconverged infrastructure ("HCI").

The City has retained the services of ClientFirst Consulting Group, LLC to assist with the writing of the RFP and in the selection of the successful vendor. The proposals submitted in compliance with the conditions specified in the RFP will be reviewed by ClientFirst and the City's technical team and interviews will be conducted with the firms that submit the most competitive responses based on objective criteria including but not limited to: responsiveness to the Request for Proposals, relevant experience and qualifications. The review panel will provide a recommendation to the City Manager that will be forwarded to the City Council for action.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Council action, the Request for Proposals for Hyperconverged Infrastructure Products and Services will be released on Thursday, July 8, 2021, with a response deadline of August 5, 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

It is recommended that IT Reserve fund in an amount not to exceed \$210,000 be appropriated for the completion of the virtual infrastructure upgrade. There is currently \$260,000 available in the IT Reserve fund.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2021-73
2. Request for Proposals for Hyperconverged Infrastructure Products and Services