



Legislative Council Staff

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Room 029 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203-1784

Phone: (303) 866-3521 • Fax: (303) 866-3855

lcs.ga@coleg.gov • leg.colorado.gov/lcs

Memorandum

February 1, 2023

TO: Joint Technology Committee

FROM: Samantha Falco, Research Analyst, 303-866-4794
Joint Technology Committee Staff

SUBJECT: JTC Staff Analysis of JBC-Referred FY 2023-24 Operating Budget Request
Office of Information Technology
R-01 Secure Colorado: Meet Current and Future Threats

Summary of Request

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) requests \$6,269,000 in Reappropriated Funds in FY 2023-24 and \$6,269,000 in FY 2024-25 and ongoing to continue the work of Secure Colorado. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) referred this portion of the operating budget request to the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) pursuant to Joint Rule 45(b), for the committee's review and recommendation as an IT-related operating budget.

Request Details

This request funds the increasing costs of vendor Palo Alto's firewall threat prevention subscription as well as transitioning state entities from state.co.us domain to .gov domain. The following is the project cost information provided by OIT:

- \$4,269,000 to cover the increasing Palo Alto costs and replace legacy equipment; and
- \$2,000,000 to fund the transition from the state.co.us domain to colorado.gov domain.

Palo Alto Firewall. Statewide vulnerabilities, including everything from unsuccessful password attempts to identified threats, increased by more than half in Colorado in the last year. OIT currently has eight Enterprise level firewalls contracted with Palo Alto. The firewalls currently block over 8 million attempts to gain access to the enterprise daily. The subscription has increased in price by over 50 percent the past year. If this request is not funded, it could result in the vendor not being paid, and all firewalls being shut-off and repossessed by Palo Alto.

Open records requirements: Pursuant to Section 24-72-202 (6.5)(b), C.R.S., research memoranda and other final products of Legislative Council Staff are considered public records and subject to public inspection unless: a) the research is related to proposed or pending legislation; and b) the legislator requesting the research specifically asks that the research be permanently considered "work product" and not subject to public inspection. If you would like to designate this memorandum to be permanently considered "work product" not subject to public inspection, or if you think additional research is required and this is not a final product, please contact the Legislative Council Librarian at (303) 866-4011 within seven days of the date of the memorandum.

.gov Domain Name. Additionally, Colorado is among the last seven remaining states to use a .us domain and by doing so, runs a great security risk. Using a .gov domain allows for greater security due to these domains being unable to modify without authentication and validation. Anyone can register a .us domain which leads to phishing attempts. Additionally, Colorado faces difficulty participating in security briefings with federal agencies and the White House because a valid .gov email address is needed to participate. The funding will allow the Access Management team within the Office of Information Security to complete the work required in the transition of domains.

Program Information

The Office of Information Security (OIS) is a team within OIT tasked with statutory duty to serve all public agencies¹ and secure the state's communication and information resources as well as protecting data. OIS sets standards to ensure the millions of routine, daily threats are maintained in addition to addressing and evolving with the presence of larger threats. There are five areas within OIS:

- Identity and Access Management;
- Security Operations;
- Security Architecture;
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance; and
- Security Program Center of Excellence.

Options for Committee Action

The JTC has three options for committee action when it reviews an operating budget request and makes a recommendation to the JBC. The JTC can:

- recommend the request to the JBC for funding with no concerns;
- recommend the request to the JBC for funding with concerns; or
- not recommend the request for funding.

¹Section 24-37.5-102(28), C.R.S.