City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

May 8, 2023

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars ($30,000) from 0111154-511001 (Micro/Network – Full Time Salaries) for an IT Risk Assessment.

The City's external auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, in their FY2022 Management Letter, recommended completing a formal IT Risk Assessment. The City has been on the wait list with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who operates under the Department of Homeland Security, and expect that these results are reviewed each time we see significant changes in our environment. After researching framework options, and interviewing many vendors, proposals, and costs, we believe that working with CISA is an excellent course of action. Nonetheless, since we are yet to have a clear timeframe as to when CISA will be available to work with the City, we have decided to move ahead with a risk analysis from an organization that can complete it in a timely manner.

The City has identified available funds in the IT Department's Full Time Salaries account, due to the department operating with one or two vacant Network Administrator positions for the last six months.

Please see the included memo from CIO Joe Mulvey.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Joseph P. Mulvey
Chief Information Officer

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To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
From: Joseph Mulvey
Date: May 9, 2023
Re: Request for Funding for Technology Risk Assessment

Good day, Maureen,

For several years the Auditors have requested that the Information Technology Department perform a risk assessment. Unlike our penetration testing which tests internet-facing equipment, the risk assessment measures the likelihood of threats that could cause harm to the city financial system in any of a myriad of ways.

Risk assessments study our practices, our employees, assigned rights in various systems, policies, SOP's and our hardware and software inventories. Of course, there is always room for improvement. Using a framework addressing the needs of a municipal financial institution, our risk assessment will create a roadmap of critical and not so critical tasks for us to address in a timely fashion.

We gathered pricing for a Risk Assessment a few years back and received quotes ranging from $20,000 to $50,000. We believe that we can find a reliable assessment for under $30,000.

Our request is for additional funding in the amount of $30,000 to finance our first risk assessment.

Respectfully,
Joe

Joseph Mulvey
Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Department