

Cybersecurity Upgrades

Protecting critical infrastructure from ransomware attacks



FUNDING REQUEST | \$2M - Interior/Environment - STAG

CRITICAL INVESTMENT NEED

Cybersecurity is an essential component of government infrastructure today, which is why Gresham is seeking \$2M in federal funding to enhance its cybersecurity capabilities at its water treatment facility. These improvements would bring the facility in line with National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) guidance covering threats, vulnerabilities, security controls, and outlining a comprehensive defense-in-depth approach.

The cybersecurity upgrades are part of a \$13M overall control system improvement project. The overall project will improve system capability with other new components, manufacturing/supplier support for products, and basic system functionality.

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, ranking member of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, recently said that "All water utilities without adequate cyber security are at risk, regardless of size."

HOW THIS INVESTMENT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY

- Strengthens cybersecurity to reduce threats and vulnerabilities to the City's water treatment system.
- Helps protect against the growing risk of ransomware attacks targeting cities & large institutions.
- Cyber-attacks in 2024 on water facilities in Texas, Indiana, & Kansas showed hackers could manipulate supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems remotely, highlighting the need to protect Gresham's water control systems.
- Prevents unauthorized remote access to SCADA systems & critical operational controls.
- Supports early detection of suspicious activity & rapid response to avoid service disruptions or damage.
- Aligns with nationwide efforts to upgrade critical infrastructure & defend against cyber-attacks.

THE IMPACT

- **Provides** water treatment to 129,000 residents across Gresham, Fairview, & Wood Village.
- **Protects** public health by safeguarding critical water treatment infrastructure.
- **Strengthens** community resilience through cybersecurity & system upgrades against emerging threats.

FUNDING USES

- Upgrade water treatment cybersecurity system to include NIST recommendations.
- Automated backups for faster disaster recovery.
- Dedicated secure server & control rooms that will limit access to authorized personnel only.
- Network monitoring.
- Secure remote access connectivity.
- Replacement of operational technology with new hardware running up-to-date operating systems and providing the latest versions of SCADA and operational technology-related software.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

This investment positions Gresham to proactively address evolving cybersecurity risks, modernize critical operations, and maintain confidence in the City's essential services that protect public health. By strengthening systems now, the City ensures long-term resilience, operational efficiency, and the ability to adapt to future challenges.

