

TOWN OF WINDSOR AGENDA REPORT

Joint Windsor Town Council, Windsor Redevelopment Successor Agency and Windsor Water District Meeting Date: February 18, 2026

To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Tom Jakobsen, Virtual Chief Information Officer
Julé Taylor, Senior Management Analyst
Subject: Approve Firewall Subscription Renewal for Information Technology Systems

Recommendation to Council:

Approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute a purchasing agreement with Portola Systems for three-year Palo Alto Networks firewall subscription renewals in the amount of \$60,052.

Strategic Plan Element:

The recommended action supports the goal of Organizational Effectiveness. Goal Statement: Achieve a high performing organization by nurturing an engaged workforce committed to a shared vision of public service.

Background:

In 2019, the Town purchased Palo Alto Networks firewalls and associated licenses to provide cybersecurity threat protection for the Town's primary and secondary internet connections. An additional Palo Alto firewall was purchased to meet regulatory requirements for the separation of the Town network from the water Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Firewall licenses provide for regular cybersecurity updates and additional product features including:

- Advanced Threat Protection
- Web Address Filtering
- Detailed Packet Analysis and Filtering
- Domain Name Filtering and Security

In 2019, the Town determined that Palo Alto Networks firewalls would provide the best level of protection against these attacks. Palo Alto Networks continue to be a leader in cybersecurity defense products. Firewall licenses were renewed for three years in 2023.

Discussion:

Firewalls are the Town's first level of defense from internet based cybersecurity attacks. Every day, the Town's firewalls are tested by potential bad actors looking for weaknesses that might lead to a successful cybersecurity attack. The Town depends on the internet for email, telephone and access to cloud-based Software as a Service applications, including Land Management (permitting/inspections) and the upcoming Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system (financials/HR/utility billing). Failure to renew the firewall subscriptions would leave the Town without critical security updates. Without active licenses, the firewalls would continue to pass traffic but would no longer receive protections against new and emerging threats, exposing Town systems to heightened vulnerability.

Staff investigated one-year and three-year license renewals for the firewalls. Three-year license renewals will result in savings of \$9,154 or 14%, assuming annual renewal pricing remains stable. At

the end of the three-year term, the firewalls will have reached End-of-Life, and the Town will need to conduct a procurement for replacement. Staff will incorporate replacement planning into the Town's regular technology lifecycle and budget process at the appropriate time.

Because firewall subscription quotes include detailed configuration information about the Town's network architecture, security posture, and device inventory, staff is not attaching the vendor quote to the public agenda packet. This information is considered sensitive and could expose the Town to cybersecurity risk if publicly disclosed. Staff has reviewed the quote internally and confirmed that the pricing aligns with current market rates and the Town's existing licensing structure. The purchasing agreement will be executed consistent with the approved amount and in accordance with the Town's procurement policies.

Staff recommends renewal of the Palo Alto Networks firewall cybersecurity licenses for a three-year term.

Fiscal Impact:

Allocations for this subscription agreement are available in the Administrative Services budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (FY 25/26).

Environmental Review:

This action does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 and requires no environmental review.

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

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Administrative Services Director

Approved by:

Jon Davis
Town Manager