Madison County To Improve Cybersecurity

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EDWARDSVILLE — Officials approved more than $163,000 in contracts to "beef up" Madison County's cybersecurity.

"The county is improving it cybersecurity, which will include multi-factor authentication and security monitoring services," Chairman Kurt Prenzler said.

The County Board approved two resolutions Wednesday night — the first, a one-year contract for a cloud service subscription and the second, a contract for security monitoring services.

Prenzler said the county is spending its first American Recovery Act (ARPA) monies to pay for the projects. He said the county was working toward improving its cybersecurity plan when the federal funding became available.

"By using the ARPA funds the county won't be spending its general fund monies to protect its infrastructure in Special Services Area No. 1," he said.

Prenzler said the county is able to improve its cybersecurity because it provides the technology and support for SSA, which is a sewer system operated by the county, and tied into the county's network.

He said the county is concerned about cybersecurity, especially after recent ransomware attacks in nearby communities. Hackers breached both St. Clair County and City of Alton.

"We want to do what we can to prevent it and protect information," he said.

IT Director Chris Bethel said the approval of the contracts puts the county in a better position to defend itself and fortify its cybersecurity systems.

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