The mission of the S.C. State Election Commission ("SEC") is to ensure every eligible citizen in South Carolina has the opportunity to register to vote, to participate in fair, impartial, and secure elections, and have the assurance that their vote will count. Challenges this agency faces include the constant threat of cyber-attacks as well as the implementation of the state's new voting system.

Thanks to the efforts of our agency's cyber security team and those of our private sector partners, as well as those of our colleagues at our state and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, the SEC has never suffered a cyber security breach. Nevertheless, the SEC is aware that it is a target of constant (albeit unsuccessful) cyber-attacks.

After the SEC implemented the new statewide voting system in late 2019, and saw its first statewide election with the new system in February 2020 (with the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary), the SEC has endeavored to work with county election offices to better help them meet the challenges they face at the county level, including keeping our elections secure at the county level.

As such, we intend to utilize the $6,767,471 in 2020 HAVA Election Security grant funds to take all reasonable measures that will better secure our state's election infrastructure.

SUMMARY:

In determining the use of the HAVA grant funds, the SEC used expertise derived from our state and federal law enforcement, defense, and intelligence partners, the SEC's private cyber security consultants, as well as county election officials. After consulting with the aforementioned parties who have conducted cyber and physical security assessments, penetration tests, vulnerability assessments, and security-related training, the SEC will invest the HAVA grant funds into remediating and implementing the security recommendations of our partners, as well as increasing the cyber and physical security of the state's new voting system, with added emphasis on investment at the county level.

It should be noted that delivery of ordered equipment will depend on how quickly the vendors can fulfill the orders, considering the manufacturing and shipping challenges posed by COVID-19.

EXPENDITURES:

1. Additional Voting Equipment
    a. The SEC conducted a survey of all SC county election offices to determine what additional voting equipment are needed in their offices and voting precincts in order to more safely conduct elections. This voting equipment includes additional ballot scanners and ballot marking devices. The addition of these

devices allows more voters to vote at a single time (using social distancing) and will decrease voter wait time.

b. Timeframe: June-August 2020

c. Cost: $1,849,320

2. Secure Voting Equipment Carts

a. To greater increase the physical security of the state's voting equipment, South Carolina counties are requesting secure equipment carts. These carts serve as storage, security, and deployment tools for election supplies and equipment. The carts feature all-welded 2"x2" steel wire grid panels, see-through visibility, locking keyed handle, and a 2,000 pound load capacity. These carts can be used to both secure multiple types of voting equipment and can help transport them from the county election office to their respective voting precinct in a protected way.

    i. Timeframe: June-August 2020

    ii. Cost: $924,000

3. Secure Ballot Bins

a. When a voter scans their ballot into the scanner, their physical ballot drops into one of these secure blue bins, which can be removed and are, themselves, secured with locks. When a bin is full, it can be removed, locked, securely stored, and replaced with an empty bin. As more voters register and vote in South Carolina, our counties are seeing a greater demand for secure ballot storage.

b. Timeframe: June-August 2020

c. Cost: $50,490

4. Secure USB Flash Drives

a. These flash drives are used to program both the ballot marking devices and store election results from DS200 scanners. As counties deploy more ballot marking devices and DS200's, they require more secure USB flash drives.

b. Timeframe: June-August 2020

c. Cost: $276,738

5. Statewide Electronic Poll Book ("E-Poll Book") Solution

a. The state of South Carolina has published a Request for Proposal for an E-Poll Book solution that will increase the security and accuracy of the voter check-in process.

b. E-Poll books serve a number of functions, both security and process-improvement-related, including: allowing poll workers to easily redirect voters in the wrong location to the correct polling place; scans a state driver's license or state voter identification card to accurately pull up a voter's information,

avoiding data entry errors; allows poll workers to look up voters from the entire county or state, reducing time spent checking in voters, which helps voting precinct staff follow CDC guidelines and keeps voting precincts safe and secure; allows real-time updates of voter history; notifies poll workers if a voter already voted absentee or during the early voting period; produces turnout numbers and lists of who voted; uses a photo to verify a voter's identity, which can be a method to prevent voter fraud.

   c. Timeline: July-September 2020

   d. Cost: $2,970,000

6. Ballot Printers

   a. The current process of checking a voter into their polling place requires a poll worker to look up the voter's election/ballot number, and then relies on a second poll worker to correctly enter that number into the ballot marking device. The voter then inserts their blank ballot card into the ballot marking device and begins to vote. This raises obvious issues as to the accuracy and security of voting if the second poll worker enters in the wrong election/ballot number for a voter.

   b. ExpressLink Printers solve this issue by eliminating the need for a second poll worker to help a voter. When the initial poll worker checks in a voter, they insert the voter's blank ballot card into the ExpressLink Printer. The ExpressLink Printer prints a bar code on that voter's election/ballot information on the card, and then the voter inserts their ballot card into the ballot marking device (which reads the bar code and automatically brings up the voter's correct ballot).

   c. Timeframe: June-August 2020

   d. Cost: $1,674,750

7. Election Auditing

   a. The State Election Commission is beginning the process of implementing a Risk Limiting Audit ("RLA") program. An RLA checks that the voting equipment and procedures used to count votes worked properly, and that an election yielded the correct outcome. While these audits are not new, they have gained attention in the last three years as election security has come to the policy foreground. A post-election audit may be able to detect whether any outside interference occurred, and security experts recommend them as one method of protecting the integrity of elections.

   b. The costs include the price of the consultants and proprietary RLA software licenses/maintenance.

   c. Timeframe: August-September 2020

   d. Cost: $375,667