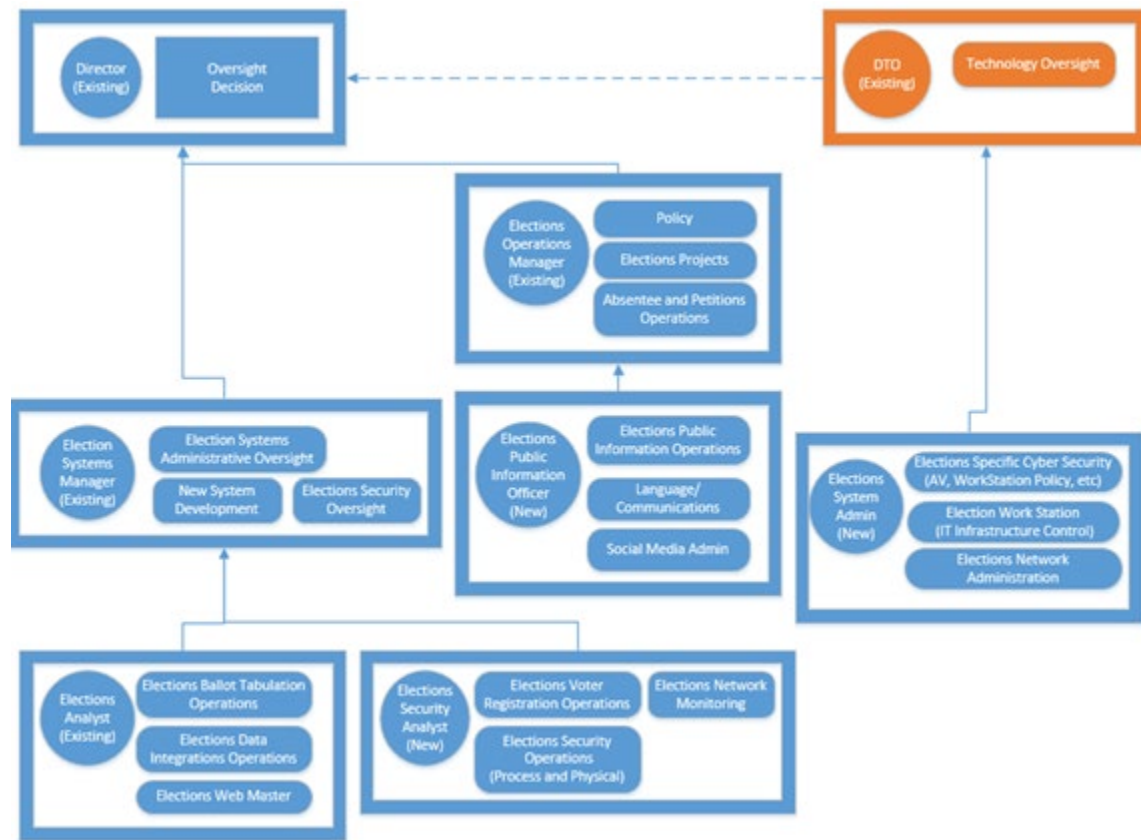**Program Narrative:**

In Alaska, the Lieutenant Governor is the Chief Elections Official and responsible for all Statewide Elections as well as a series of other minor elections. Historically, the Division of Elections (DOE) is the principal agency tasked with the execution and operation of these elections. This is accomplished with assistance provided by the Governor's Office for a narrow set of common Information Technology related services. That support was primarily for the workstations of administrative staff. This has changed as the division has created and deployed more technology. In 2015, DOE launched its first online voter registration system. Since that date incidents including the cyber intrusions of 2016 pushed the realization that threats are increasing and evolving. In response to that realization, the need for DOE to collaborate with many on election security has become paramount. The public's perception of the integrity of elections has also been marred. While the primary sources of this are outside of the DOE's control, DOE recognizes the need to aggressively mitigate risks that could further undermine public confidence. To that end, the Division launched a program with the initial 2020 grants funds to enhance our security posture, increase our inter-agency coordination and combat election related misinformation/disinformation. The Division will continue to fund this program with the 2022 grant award.

The program has established two major projects. The first is improving the control the Division has over public information. This includes exercises related to both the internal content (which the division provides via its information services) as well as exercises related to the control of social media narratives that pertain to the administration of any given election. The second project is focused on building out tools and staff positions to focus on improving election security and transparency in an iterative way. The first iteration being the analysis of the various forms of data that the division captures. That analysis would be done with a view to establishing baselines for normal behaviors and identifying anomalies. It is the Division's goal to synergize these projects, significantly enhancing the division's responsiveness and awareness.

The projects involved in this program includes three new fulltime employees in staffing or consultant support. One position/consultant assists the Division's Operations Manager with implementing a Social Media monitoring and response regimen. The position is further leveraged to support the Language and Web content delivery teams. A second position/consultant is assigned to serve as a data analyst, building reports and monitoring the various types of data that the division receives. This position is responsible to build out the various baseline and anomaly detection mechanisms. A third position/consultant would support the IT group specifically related to elections related cyber security tasks. This would include drafting machine-based policies that restrict usage, configuring and monitoring firewall activity and various network administration tasks.

Funds related to this program will also be used for other election related security tasks including: Cyber security evaluations, physical security inspections, election worker training, elections security policy enforcement, public confidence building, and measures to improve election night reporting.

The division is in the process of exploring updates to the statewide voter registration system to determine its future direction for the next 10 to 15 years. The division's goal is to enhance the system and business capabilities to prioritize flexibility with ever changing technology requirements; and prioritize system's security enhancements and protection of voter data.

Budget Narrative

This program is expected to last four to six years encompassing the Election cycles 2020 through 2024. It is anticipated that the projects will have initial ramping costs and that the majority of contractual related costs will come in the off-cycle years (2021 and 2023). If the results of the program are deemed beneficial, DOE hopes subsequent funding will be made available by either the State or the Federal Government for on-going operations. The Information Officer would have an anticipated cost not to exceed $115,000 a year (Salary and Benefits). The Data Analyst would have a cost not to exceed 150,000 a year (Salary and Benefits).

It is expected that some hardware will be necessary. This includes the purchase of workstations, software and other miscellaneous items. This budget is estimated at $20.0 for Information Controls/Communications. We intended to expend funds related to equipment for physical security, including sensors and physical access keys and other items has an estimated budget of $ 40.0.

Contracts will be created for consultancy work for public relations, policy and procedure creation, and IT support work has an estimated budget of $675.0 for the information control operations/communications. Similar contracts/sub-grants will be created for support and development of network monitoring solutions, data modeling tools and reports has an estimated budget of $900.0. It is anticipated we will also have contracts related to auditing, security reviews and policy development that will be folded into the security category.

It is anticipated that trainings and certifications will be necessary for various staff. These will not exceed $40.0 in any of their respective areas and an additional estimated of $60.0 dedicated to election security specifically.

It is anticipated other costs including travel, conferences fees, supplies and such will exist. These are estimated at $160.0 for information control operations/communications and estimated at $230.0 for data analysis operations/cyber security. The enforcement of security policy is the chief expense in this section of the budget as it includes travel for training the Division would provide to local jurisdictions and the auditing of the security practices of local jurisdictions using State systems.

Focused Activities for the Election Cycle

The two major arms of the division's plan will have the following components:

1.) A public information officer will be brought on board and dedicated the Division's communications.

   a. This individual will assist the division (potentially leveraging a PR firm) to extend its capacity and controls around information provided in the social media space. This will include promoting voter registration, bilingual outreach as well as providing, general election information.
   b. This officer will also coordinate and conduct Election Awareness Campaigns centered on specific election themes.
      i. A campaign will be launched to raise public awareness of Election security preparedness, with the goal of improving Voter Confidence
      ii. A campaign will be launched to focus the public on reliable election information.

2.) A data analyst will be brought on board and dedicated the Division's cyber security tasks.

   a. The individual will develop, procure, and learn tools related to cyber incident detection. (At the outset, most of this work will be setting up tools and procedures to monitor various elements of the division cyber posture).

b. The data analyst will also be developing a comprehensive data model for the division (bringing together and coordinating data from various independent systems).

Both of these individuals we be employing tools and potentially having contractors assist them as the develop the Division's capacity.

Security Enhancements for the Statewide Voter Registration Database

The division plans to expend funds to further improve and harden the statewide voter registration system. The narrative and budget will be updated as recommendations and proposals are made to strengthen, secure, and modernize the statewide voter registration system. The Division has noted an estimated budget of $500.0 dedicated to updating the database and infrastructure to meet the changing technology requirements.

PROJECT PERIOD START DATE:	3/16/2022		INDIRECT COST % (IF APPLIED):	
PROJECT PERIOD END DATE:			INDIRECT COST TYPE:	

SECTION A: GRANT BUDGET

	YEAR 1 - (e.g 2018 ES)	YEAR 2 - (e.g 2020 ES)	YEAR 3 - (e.g. 2022 ES)	TOTAL:
FEDERAL AMOUNT	$ 3,000,000.00	$ 3,000,000.00	$ 1,000,000.00	$ 7,000,000.00
NON FEDERAL MATCH	$ 1,626,612.00	$ 600,000.00	$ 200,000.00	$ 2,426,612.00
TOTAL:				$ 9,426,612.00

SECTION B: BUDGET CATEGORIES (Federal Only)	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Voting Processes	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Election Auditing	(e) Cyber and Physical Security	(f) Communications & Voter Education	(g) Accessibility	(h) Election Security Training	(i) Subgrants	TOTALS	% Fed Total
PERSONNEL	$ 40,000.00				$ 760,000.00	$ 445,000.00		$ 10,000.00		$ 1,255,000.00	18%
FRINGE RELATED TO SALARY										$ -	0%
EQUIPMENT	$ 3,000,000.00				$ 40,000.00	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00		$ 3,080,000.00	44%
TRAINING	$ 25,000.00		$ 10,000.00		$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00		$ 60,000.00		$ 175,000.00	3%
CONTRACTUAL	$ 25,000.00		$ 500,000.00		$ 900,000.00	$ 675,000.00				$ 2,100,000.00	30%
OTHER (Other support costs)					$ 230,000.00	$ 160,000.00				$ 390,000.00	6%
OTHER (Describe)										$ -	0%
SUBGRANTS										$ -	0%
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	$ 3,090,000.00	$ -	$ 510,000.00	$ -	$ 1,970,000.00	$ 1,340,000.00	$ -	$ 90,000.00	$ -	$ 7,000,000.00	100%
INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)										$ -	0%
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	$ 3,090,000.00	$ -	$ 510,000.00	$ -	$ 1,970,000.00	$ 1,340,000.00	$ -	$ 90,000.00	$ -	$ 7,000,000.00	100%
PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY	44%	0%	7%	0%	28%	19%	0%	1%	0%		

SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES	Column1	Column2	Column3	
SOURCE DESCRIPTION	STATE FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL:	
General fund appropriation	$ 1,626,612.00		$ 1,626,612.00	
General fund appropriation	$ 600,000.00		$ 600,000.00	
General fund appropriation	$ 200,000.00		$ 200,000.00	
			$ -	
	$ 2,426,612.00	$ -	$ 2,426,612.00	