



January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Story County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to request approval to reclassify a currently vacant Computer Support Specialist position within my Information Technology Department to a Cybersecurity Analyst position. As Story County continues to modernize its technology environment and expand the use of cloud-based systems, remote access, and integrated applications, the volume and sophistication of cybersecurity threats facing county operations will continue to increase significantly. Protecting sensitive county data, ensuring system availability, and maintaining compliance with security requirements now has a need for dedicated cybersecurity expertise.

The Computer Support Specialist position was originally budgeted at approximately \$65,000 in salary. The proposed Cybersecurity Analyst position is classified as a Grade 22 position with a minimum salary of \$87,204.83. If filled at the minimum salary, the estimated annual cost increase would be approximately \$26,500, inclusive of salary and associated benefits.

**Estimated Cost Breakdown (Annual):**

- Salary difference: \$22,500
- FICA: \$1,721.25
- IPERS: \$2,124.00
- **Total estimated increase: ~\$26,500**

This position change would allow the IT Department to more effectively address cybersecurity monitoring, vulnerability management, incident response planning, event logging and security policy enforcement. Areas that are increasingly critical to county operations and risk management. Shifting this position reflects a reallocation of resources to meet current and future operational needs rather than an expansion of overall staffing levels.

I believe this change is a prudent investment in protecting county systems, reducing long-term risk, and strengthening our overall technology posture. I respectfully request the Board's consideration and approval of this position reclassification.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Colin Gerst  
IT Director  
Story County