

Cost-Benefit Analysis & Financial Strategy

The security transformation was designed to maximize protection while adhering to a strict \$50,000 first-year budget. The strategy prioritized a Hybrid-Cloud approach to balance immediate risk remediation with long-term scalability.

Category	Strategy	Rationale & Budgetary Impact
Infrastructure Model	Transition to OpEx	Shifted from high upfront Capital Expenditure (CapEx) to a subscription-based Operational Expenditure (OpEx) model using cloud services.
Perimeter Security	Cloud-Based NGFW	Reduced upfront costs compared to physical hardware while providing scalable threat intelligence.
Internal Defense	Hardware Repurposing	Saved significant funds by repurposing existing Fortinet and Sophos firewalls for internal micro-segmentation.
Identity Management	Cloud IAM with MFA	Leveraged subscription models for predictable monthly costs and prioritized using existing DUO licenses to minimize new spending.
Endpoint Protection	EDR Expansion	Expanded existing Sophos Intercept X deployments rather than procuring entirely new solutions, reducing licensing overhead.
Data Migration	Phased Integration	Avoided a costly "Big Bang" merger, instead of using a phased approach to decommissioning end-of-life servers (Win 7/Server 2012) to reduce maintenance costs.

Justification of Approach

By focusing on cloud-based security services for immediate impact and strategically leveraging existing on-premises assets, this plan provided a hardened security foundation within the allocated budget. This approach allows the organization to keep sensitive data

on premises where necessary while utilizing the cloud for scalability and advanced analytics.