With 7,500 employees in 280 offices across the U.S., this federal law enforcement Agency relies upon public facing applications, mission systems and large volumes of data, including sensitive law enforcement and evidentiary data to protect communities from violent crimes and acts of terrorism. Many of the Agency’s activities are carried out in conjunction with task forces made up of federal, state and local law enforcement officers. In the event of an incident, law enforcement professionals from multiple organizations depend on rapid access to the federal Agency’s applications and data to protect the public from violent crimes.

In response to the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Cloud First and Data Center Optimization Initiative, the Agency revised their architecture to replace their legacy data center with an innovative hybrid cloud architecture to meet its increasing mission needs and stringent security requirements. To improve operational performance while reducing costs, the Agency wanted to take advantage of cloud computing to turn capital expenses into operational expenses, reducing existing operations and maintenance (O&M) costs to create the funding to migrate their mission critical applications to the cloud.

The federal law enforcement agency turned to 1901 Group to support their journey to the cloud. This transformation is built upon 1901 Group’s cost neutral cloud journey approach that immediately reduced the current O&M spending by 30% by improving their information technology service management (ITSM), enabling the agency to apply those savings to migrate mission critical data and applications to the cloud. The first step was transitioning the infrastructure O&M contract to 1901 Group’s FedRAMP authorized, network infrastructure as a service (NIaaS) offering that leverages Service Now’s FedRAMP authorized Service Automation Platform and 24x7 managed services to improve performance and reduce costs. For step two, 1901 Group used Service Now Discovery and Service Mapping to assess the Agency’s mission systems, applications and data building an detailed configuration management database (CMDB) and full stack service mapping which is a critical step when developing a cloud migration roadmap. Upon approval of the migration plan, 1901 Group established a FISMA High, Private cloud storage as a service (STaaS) to provide disaster recovery as a service (DRaaS) with a recovery point objective and recovery time objective of less than one minute. 1901 Group then established the cloud infrastructure as a service (IaaS) and used Service Now service catalog to allow authorized users to provision compute, storage and marketplace resources to support the migration of cloud ready, live workloads to the cloud DR environment. The last phase was the systematic refactoring of legacy applications to an open source solution and establishing a DevSecOps environment to support continuous integration/continuous development to improve the efficiency, security and O&M costs for refactored mission system and applications. The net result is a transformed environment that leverages hybrid cloud, adhering to all federal security mandates that significantly reduce costs over time through 1901 Group’s cost neutral cloud journey.
Case Study: Cost Neutral Cloud Journey

With its secure hybrid cloud solution, the agency has established a FISMA High hybrid cloud environment and an architecture for federal agencies that have stringent data requirements to improve performance, reducing IT budgets while improving operational efficiencies and security. The agency is proof that it is possible for one of the largest federal law enforcement agencies to maintain data control and governance while dramatically lowering costs using the cloud.

1901 Group’s Cost Neutral Cloud Journey solution encompasses the following steps:

1. **Move Management of the Current Infrastructure O&M using FedRAMP Authorized Service Now Service Automation Platform.** We use Service Now’s Service Management Suite to provide 24x7 O&M support of their network, storage and compute environments. We performed discovery and assessment activities on the existing environment, established DR target and Hybrid infrastructure, and built in FISMA High and federal law enforcement data security controls and compliance.

2. **Focus on DR First and Start with Data.** To provide a logical path for migrating production workloads to the cloud, we conducted “full stack” application discovery using Service Now Discovery and Service Mapping to visualize data, infrastructure, and service dependencies, which was a critical step to developing a cloud migration roadmap. We used replication tools to move Agency data off their legacy storage device to a Private Cloud STaaS model where data storage is procured on a per-terabyte basis.

3. **Establish Hybrid Cloud by Leveraging Commercial Data Center Services.** Our hybrid cloud solution includes Private cloud for storage to ensure data chain of custody; Public and Community cloud compute, backup and storage, and; commercial data center for hosting of applications that are not cloud ready. We automated the server request and provisioning process through Service Now’s Service Catalog and managed the server uptime through established policies, Service Now Orchestration and elasticity engineering.

4. **Migrate cloud ready applications to DR environment.** We used leading tools to automate the migration where possible and manually deployed applications where needed. We connected Cloud DR Applications to Private Storage data and established cloud instances in AWS GovCloud to support high data input/output based applications.

5. **Refactor Applications that are Not Cloud Ready, then Migrate them to the Cloud.** We identified a business objective to provide application refactoring in an “as a service” model to reduce the dependency on expensive, commercial software by transitioning functionality from a legacy application to open source systems, potentially saving the Agency millions of dollars in licensing and maintenance costs.

6. **Day-2 as a Managed Service:** After all applications are migrated to the cloud, we extend the data center Managed Services using Service Now to the Hybrid cloud environment. We integrated cloud specific tools for orchestration, automation, and governance with Service Now and continue to leverage 24x7 FedRAMP authorized Operations Center to manage Cloud infrastructure.