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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): February 8, 2022**

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**Athersys, Inc.**  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-33876**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**20-4864095**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**3201 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**44115-2634**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (216) 431-9900**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

**Title of each class**  
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

**Trading Symbol**  
ATHX

**Name of each exchange on which registered**  
The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

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**Item 5.02   Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On February 8, 2022, the independent members of the Board of Directors of Athersys, Inc. (the “*Company*”), upon the recommendation of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company, approved the following cash bonuses to the named executive officers of the Company, based on individual performance and achievement of corporate goals in 2021:

| <u><b>Name</b></u>   | <u><b>Title</b></u>                                                    | <u><b>Award</b></u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| William Lehmann, Jr. | Interim Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Operating Officer | \$201,055           |
| Dr. John Harrington  | Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer                  | \$134,626           |
| Ivor Macleod         | Chief Financial Officer                                                | \$104,730           |

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: February 11, 2022

ATHERSYS, INC.

By: /s/ Ivor Macleod

Name: Ivor Macleod

Title: Chief Financial Officer