

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/14/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0089

LOG NAME: 35FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FY23

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for, and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, First Responder Mental Health Program, to Occur in the Fiscal Year 2024 in an Amount Up to \$110,000.00, Adopt Resolution, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify application for, and acceptance of, if awarded, the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, First Responder Mental Health Program grant in an amount up to \$110,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2024;
 2. Authorize the execution of a grant agreement with the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, First Responder Mental Health Program; and
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund subject to receipt of the grant in an amount of up to \$110,000.00.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Office of the Governor (OOG), Criminal Justice Division, First Responder Mental Health Program is to provide services and assistance directly to officers and first responders to address direct and indirect trauma that occurs in the course of their normal duties either as the result of the commission of crimes by other persons or in response to an emergency. The OOG Office seeks to support projects that allow for the identification and expansion of promising practices that follow the principles of quality-driven, evidence-based, accessible, and memorable support services.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Provide a confidential, specialized, evidence-based approach to treating and reducing stress for officers and first responders
- Improve coping mechanisms/strategies
- Increase morale and productivity
- Reduce the stigma associated with seeking help by providing safe, effective, and confidential services.

The City of Fort Worth Police department would like to continue to bolster and strengthen the department's officer and employee wellness program. The department would like to create Behavioral Empowerment and Trust (BET) program to generate awareness and serve as a symbol to end the stigma associated with seeking help. The chip represents access to fully anonymous mental health services at no cost to employees. Essentially, an employee can obtain confidential counseling and mental health services for free. Service providers are selected based on their understanding of the unique challenges police officers face serving the community. On each chip, there will be a resource website that can be utilized by employees. The funding from this grant will provide for up to 900 council sessions and 1,500 chips to start the program in October of 2024.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: State of Texas

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Police Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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