Caldwell County
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Submitter: **Douglas Dupell** **Meeting Date: June 10, 2024**

Agenda Section: Consent **Department: Sheriff's Office**

Suggested Motion(s): Approval of Grant Application Submission

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SUMMARY: These are only in the beginning stages in the application process.

2024 Department of Justice COPS Hiring Grant. This year we are applying for one Domestic Violence Deputy and four Crisis Intervention Investigator positions. The breakdown of these positions are as follows:

One position will be assigned to the Civil Division to assist with the domestic violence caseload that Sgt. S. Williams currently is over. There were 781 reported Domestic Violence cases in 2023. Out of these cases Sgt. Williams received 712 civil papers to be served. This workload does not include the amount of time he spends in court or on scene when firearms have to be seized because of a court order.

The remaining four positions would be for Crisis Intervention Investigators. These positions would be able to operate similar to the way our patrol division does now. One investigator per shift that does not respond to calls like a deputy but would respond to incidents like overdoses, unattended deaths, and be able to quickly respond to cases where the on-call investigator does at this current time. But by having one per shift, the response time would be greatly reduced along with not having to pay overtime for the investigator that is being called in. These investigators could remain on scene for unattended deaths until transport arrives freeing up the deputies allowing them to be back on the road. When not on an active investigation they could be going to neighborhood watch meetings, community events, or reaching out providing

referrals to our RESTART program to the homeless or those that have overdosed. According to our own RESTART data from 2023, they had 398 participant referrals but only 9 came from Law Enforcement. A major factor in this is the amount of calls for service coming in does not allow them any time to do more than suggest to someone to call.

The grant will pay 75% of salary and benefits with the county having the remaining 25% for three years. The only other term of the grant is they wish to have the county employ this position for at least one year following the grant cycle.

Budget Impact:

Is this expenditure approved in the current fiscal year budget? NO

If not, describe how it will be funded. The grant will cover the position and the fringe benefits at a rate of 75% federal funds with a 25% match from the county. Any and all equipment would have to be provided by the Sheriff's Office at their expense. Since the positions would not need to provide emergency response, we could utilize vehicles past the 150,000-mile marker as their transportation. Uniforms and equipment could be sourced as much as possible through surplus. Other funding will be sought after through grants to offset any of these costs for the county when possible.

ATTACHMENTS: