THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Subject: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Responder Support Services

Staff Resource(s): Shannon Barrett, Human Resources Director; Larisa Lowman, Compensation & Benefits Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Responder Support Services to provide continued embedded behavioral health services to the Asheville Police & Fire Departments.

Background:

- Responder Support Services currently provides embedded behavioral health support to the Fire and Police Departments four days per week for each department.
- Utilization of the services has steadily increased since implementation of the program.
- Employees in each department have access to behavioral health care providers on-site during regular work hours.
- Ongoing uninterrupted behavioral health support to public safety employees is critical in maintaining the health and well-being of these employees and ensuring ongoing service delivery to the community.
- Staff completed a Request for Proposals to continue these services and the current vendor was selected.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Funding for this project is provided through City general fund and/or operating budgets. As a result, the outreach and engagement followed the City's business inclusion processes.
- Staff completed MWBE outreach efforts, utilizing the City's internal ABI list and searching the State of North Carolina electronic Vendor Portal System
- One other vendor submitted a proposal but did not complete the required ABI documentation and was disqualified
- Staff was unable to identify other local vendors that provide this specific service

Council Goal(s):

- A Connected and Engaged Community

Pro(s):

- Support for public safety employees dealing with trauma on a daily basis
- Known provider who specializes in supporting public safety employees

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the first year of this contract is available in the Health Insurance Fund operating budget.
- Future years will be planned for during the annual budget development process.

- The total contract value is $557,539 for the three-year contract period, with an option of $419,702.90 for two one-year renewals.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a new three-year contract with two one-year renewals with Responder Support Services, LLC to provide continued embedded behavioral health services to Police and Fire employees.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RESPONDER SUPPORT SERVICES, LLC TO PROVIDE ONSITE EMBEDDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR FIRE AND POLICE EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS, the City has successfully provided embedded onsite behavioral health services to Fire and Police employees; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends the continued delivery of these services and the execution of a new contract with an initial term of three (3) years with up to two (2) one-year extensions to said contract upon mutual approval of the parties; and

WHEREAS, the monies for the contract have been budgeted in the FY 2024 Health Insurance Fund operating budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract on behalf of the City of Asheville with Responder Support Services, LLC, to provide embedded on-site behavioral health services to Fire and Police employees and is further authorized to execute said contract for a three-year period and two one-year renewal options for an expenditure of $557,539 for the first three years, and $419,702.90 for two one-year renewals; and to execute any necessary change orders to said contract.

Read, approved and adopted this the 12th day of December, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney