THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Subject: Amend Existing Contract with Responder Support Services

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution amending a contract with Responder Support Services, LLC for embedded behavioral health services for public safety employees and their dependents.

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 contract.
- 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 is issuing a Request for Proposals to continue these services, but the process will not be complete by the current contract's end.
- Staff is requesting to amend the current contract to extend it through October 31, 2023, and to add an additional $60,000 to provide ongoing embedded behavioral health support to Fire and Police Departments 4 days per week for each department.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The current vendor for embedded behavioral health support is Responder Support Services, LLC. This vendor provides specialized support for Fire and Police employees.
- 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:

- Additional $60,000 added to the contract for a total investment of $516,000 over the three-year contract.
- Funding for this contract is available in the FY 2024 Health Insurance Fund operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Responder Support Services, LLC to continue providing behavioral health services to Police and Fire employees.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH RESPONDER SUPPORT SERVICES, LLC TO CONTINUE 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 a current contract with Responder Support Services, LLC to provide embedded onsite behavioral health services to Fire and Police employees four days per week for each department; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends the continued delivery of services and the execution of a contract amendment to extend the current contract until October 31, 2023 to allow for the completion of an RFP process; and

WHEREAS, the monies for the contract amendment 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 amend the current contract on behalf of the City of Asheville with Responder Support Services, LLC, to provide ongoing behavioral health services to Fire and Police employees and is further authorized to execute said contract amendment to extend the terms for an additional four months and add an additional $60,000, bringing the total three-year contract expenditure to $516,000; and to execute any necessary change orders to said contract.

Read, approved and adopted this the 22nd day of August, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney