THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: February 8, 2022

Subject: Contract amendment to increase funding for behavioral health support to Fire and Police

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

Action Requested: Adoption of contract amendment for Responder Support Services, LLC

Background:
- Responder Support Services currently provides embedded behavioral health support to Fire and Police Departments four days per week for each department.
- Embedded behavioral health support provides onsite individual behavioral health services by trained professionals to public safety employees as well as appropriate services following critical incidents.
- The need by Fire and Police for behavioral health support has steadily increased over the past year.
- Increased behavioral health support to Public Safety employees is critical to maintain the health and wellbeing of these employees in order to provide service to the community.
- We are requesting an increase to the current contract by $120,000 for a total amount of $296,000 to provide ongoing embedded behavioral health support to Fire and Police Departments 4 days per week for each department.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:
- 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 dedicated service to Fire and Police Departments.

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):
- No increase in funding results in restricted access to support for public safety employees

Fiscal Impact:
- Additional $120,000 added to the contract for a total investment of $296,000 over the three-year contract.
- These funds are available in the health fund and no additional funds are needed.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to approve contract amendment to support ongoing behavioral health support for City of Asheville Fire and Police Departments.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND CONTRACT WITH RESPONDER SUPPORT SERVICES, LLC TO CONTINUE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO 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 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 with an effective date of February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the monies for the contract amendment have been budgeted in the Health Care Fund 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 further authorized to execute said contract amendment for a total expenditure of $120,000 bringing the total contract expenditure to $296,000; and to execute any necessary change orders to said contract.

Read, approved and adopted this the 8th day of February, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney