THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: December 8, 2020

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

Staff Resource(s): Shannon Barrett, Interim 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 to increase funding for behavioral health support to Fire and Police.

Background:

- Responder Support Services currently provides embedded behavioral health support to Fire and Police Departments two (2) days per week for each department.
- The need by Fire and Police for behavioral health support has steadily increased in the last several months.
- Fire Chief and Police Chief have requested embedded support four (4) days per week for each department.
- 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.

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 thriving local economy

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:

- The cost for the contract will be $176,000 per year.
- Funding will come from the existing budget in the City's Health Insurance Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve contract amendment to support increased behavioral health support for City of Asheville Fire and Police Departments

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND CONTRACT WITH RESPONDER SUPPORT SERVICES, LLC TO INCREASE 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 two (2) days per week for each department; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends increasing embedded behavioral health services to four (4) days per week for both Fire and Police Departments to effectively support said employees; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends the execution of a contract amendment with an initial term of one (1) year with up to two (2) one-year extensions to said contract upon mutual approval of the parties; and

WHEREAS, the contract amendment effective date shall be November 1, 2020; 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 increased behavioral health services to Fire and Police employees, and further authorized to execute said contract amendment for a total expenditure of $88,000 bringing the total contract expenditure to $176,000; and to execute any necessary change orders to said contract.

Read, approved and adopted this the 8th day of December, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney