City Council Agenda Item Request

Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 3/5/2026

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Emily Provance, Human Resources Director

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 3/24/2026

4. **Subject:** Approval of City of Asheville contract with Responder Support Services, LLC (RSS)

5. **Action Requested:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Responder Support Services, LLC beginning April 1, 2026, in the amount of $339,440, to provide behavioral health counseling services to first responder employees and their families.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Current contract expires March 31, 2026. New contract will be effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and will provide mental health services to employees and their families.
7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** $339,440

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**

   Funding for this project is provided through City general fund and/or operating budgets. As a result outreach and engagement followed the City's business inclusion processes.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** n/a

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - The City of Asheville released an RFP soliciting proposals from qualified providers of behavioral health counseling to provide embedded services and individual counseling specifically designed for first responders and their families. RSS was selected to provide the services beginning April 1, 2026.
    - This resolution will ensure that there is no disruption to these benefits.