

Staff Report

Subject: Annual renewal of Accountability Court Agreement (Mental Health/Drug Court).

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Department: Purchasing

Meeting Date: 05/16/2023

Item Description: Accountability Court Renewal

Summary Recommendation: Approval to renew

Executive Summary/Background:

- The Board has an Intergovernmental Agreement in place with the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Accountability Court. The Accountability Court is a combined Drug and Mental Health Treatment Court. Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Michael T. Muldrew has previously stated that the Accountability Court is growing rapidly and lives are being positively impacted through the support of the Board of Commissioners through this agreement.
- The County has a considerable amount of criminal offenders that have drug and mental health issues.
- This court is attempting to achieve a reduction in recidivism as well as offering real help to mentally ill offenders in criminal cases, which should increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation of drug addicted criminals through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment options.
- This option and last chance court is not only good policy but good community service that can change lives.
- The cost to Effingham County for FY22 was \$10,401.00, and year to date for FY23 is \$13,617.68. We have received three of four quarterly requests for reimbursement.
- The County attorney has previously reviewed and approved to form the intergovernmental agreement.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve renewal of agreement for FY24.
2. Do not approve renewal of agreement for FY24.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Purchasing

Funding Source: Included in current budget

Attachments: Accountability Court Agreement