



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Jill Hueser, Chief Judge
Ingrid Decker, Legal

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 106, 2023, Making Supplemental Appropriations from the 2023 Colorado Opioid Settlement Funds for Use by the Municipal Court.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on August 15, 2023, appropriates \$75,000 of the City's share of 2023 funds from the Colorado Opioid Settlement to be used in the remainder of 2023 to work towards establishing a municipal drug court program for persons with opioid use disorder and co-occurring substance use or mental health issues. This is a permitted use for these funds under the Colorado Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the City and the State of Colorado.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Over the last several years local and state governments across the nation, including in Colorado, filed lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies for creating the opioid epidemic. The parties to various opioid lawsuits have been negotiating settlement agreements to resolve the litigation.

The City is participating in the Colorado opioids settlement through a 2021 Memorandum of Understanding with the State, and a 2022 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Larimer County and other local municipalities that created the Larimer Regional Opioid Council – a body that determines the distribution of funds in Larimer County.

The Municipal Court is working to establish a local drug court program to provide evidence-based problem-solving court practices to individuals with substance use disorders. The City has received its first payment of settlement funds in the amount of \$106,672 for 2023 and wishes to put \$75,000 of these funds towards that program. Providing certain services to and addressing the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons with opioid use disorder and co-occurring substance use or mental health issues is a permitted use of opioid settlement funds under the MOU. These funds would allow the hiring of a probation officer and work towards forming a cooperative team that would include Fort Collins Police Services, treatment providers, prosecution and defense attorneys, and other community resources.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The settlement amount received in the General Fund for 2023 is \$106,672. These funds may only be used for specific types of programs and this appropriation would not impact the General Fund.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Council Finance Committee supported this appropriation at their July 6, 2023, meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration