

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Rob Seals, Police Psychologist, Police Services
Kerri Ishmael, Senior Analyst, Grants Administration

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-127 Supporting a Grant Application for Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support Funding for Fort Collins Police Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to obtain support to apply for grant funds for the Police Services' Office of Human Services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Police Services' Office of Human Services provides behavioral health support to police officers through a Police Psychologist. The model of a single embedded professional expert in providing such services has been in existence for the last thirty-five years. Considering the increase in number of police officers combined with changes in the socio-cultural environment for law enforcement, increased work stressors, and continued development of programs and practice standards for managing the psychological health of police officers, Police Services has a gap in providing current services to both police officers and their family members.

To fill the gap in the service offerings needed, Police Services has been searching for funding opportunities in support of a full-time Mental Health Counselor to provide psychological services for Police Services staff and their family members. This full-time position would work under the direction of the current Police Psychologist to provide counseling, crisis intervention services, and mental health education and training.

Considering the beneficial impact the Mental Health Counselor serves to provide Police Services staff, in collaboration with the Police Psychologist, the City is pursuing funding through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) FY2024-2025 Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships Grant Program. The DOLA grant program supports law enforcement agencies in providing funding for: 1) counseling services for police officers and their family members; 2) training and educational programs that teach about the systems of job-related mental trauma, and how to prevent and treat such trauma; and 3) peer support programs.

The proposed request for funds will support having the services of the Mental Health Counselor for two years, along with yearly training.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Support of Police Services applying to this DOLA grant program does not impact City finances. If the grant is awarded, the City will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant funds and will seek appropriation of such grant funds from City Council.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration