



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/14/2025

REQUESTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Rick Knighton, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA BY AND THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE OKLAHOMA OPIOID ABATEMENT BOARD (OAB) FOR THE FY 2025 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$498,000 TO BE USED FOR AN APPROVED OPIOID ABATEMENT PROJECT IN THE CITY OF NORMAN; AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT K-2526-92 BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA AND THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR THE OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT AWARD AND APPROVED PROJECT.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted House Bill 4138, the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act, creating the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board oversight body for the distribution of opioid settlement funds. Section 2 of the Act provides the Legislature's purpose, which is "to promote and protect the health of Oklahomans by using monetary grants to abate the opioid crisis in a comprehensive manner that includes cooperation and collaboration with political subdivisions." 74 O.S. § 30.4. Although the City of Norman did not participate as a litigating party in any of the opioid lawsuits, it is eligible for opioid abatement grants.

On May 13, 2025, Request for Proposal RFP-2425-60 was posted seeking proposals for a partnership to assist the City with executing a project pursuant to the approved purposes set forth in the Act (see 74 O.S. §30.5). The Virtue Center was the highest-ranking submission, and their proposal informed the project submitted to the State in the grant application.

On June 3, 2025, City Council approved Resolution R-2425-132 authorizing Staff to submit an application for \$498,000 of grant funding over three years for the purpose of funding a partnership with The Virtue Center to implement the qualifying programs and services described in their proposal. The grant application was submitted to the State on June 11, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

On August 19, 2025, the State provided a Conditional Award of the \$498,000 grant funding for the partnership project with The Virtue Center. To be fully awarded the grant funding, Staff must revise the application as requested and detailed in the conditional award. City Council must also officially accept the grant award and approve both the agreement between the State and the City and the agreement between the City and The Virtue Center. Staff completed the required steps to satisfy the conditional award on September 18 and September 29, 2025.

The agreement with the State outlines the responsibilities of both the State and the City. The State is to provide the \$498,000 grant funding in quarterly installments over the three years of the grant (\$166,000 per year). The City is to carry out the project that was approved by the State on August 19, 2025 and provide quarterly reports of the status and results of the project. The City is to begin performance on the project within sixty days of receipt of the funding from the State. The City must keep the grant funding in a segregated account, which will be the State Grant Reimbursement account (221-331380). The agreement allows for the City to utilize a subcontractor in support of its duties and obligations with State approval—such subcontractor will be The Virtue Center. The term of the agreement will be from the date of execution and will automatically expire on June 30, 2028. Any funds not expended by this date must be returned to the State unless it agrees to an extension for a period not to exceed one year.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Staff recommends accepting the FY 2025 Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grant conditional award from the State of Oklahoma in the amount of \$498,000 to fund the approved partnership project with The Virtue Center to carry out the approved purposes in the Act.
2. Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2526-92.
3. Staff recommends an appropriation of \$498,000 from Special Grants Fund Balance (Account 22-29000) to State Grants – Professional Services – Other (Account 22122371-44099).