



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 06/10/2025

REQUESTER: Taylor Johnson, AICP, Transit and Parking Program Manager

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, P.E., Public Works Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2425-121: AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY D/B/A NORMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL (NRH) TO PROVIDE \$25,000 ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT PARATRANSIT OPERATIONS AND RECEIVE RIDERSHIP DATA REPORTS.

BACKGROUND:

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), paratransit service is required for passengers who are 1) unable to navigate the public bus system, 2) unable to get to a point from which they could access the public bus system, or 3) have a temporary need for these services because of injury or some type of limited duration cause of disability. These service qualifications overlap with some of the clientele that is served by the Norman Regional Hospital Authority, D/B/A Norman Regional Hospital (NRH), and having statistical data on the paratransit trips serving the NRH facilities has been beneficial to the hospital's operation.

For many years NRH has financially contributed toward the cost of operating a public transportation system in the City of Norman, specifically the paratransit services, in exchange for such statistical data reports. This agreement originated with the University of Oklahoma's Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) program before the city-wide services were transitioned to the City of Norman in 2019.

Because the paratransit services are now entirely operated by the City of Norman as the direct recipient of federal transit funds, a similar agreement was developed between the City of Norman and NRH under contract K-1920-86 in November 2019 just after the transition of transit services was completed. This same contract has been auto-renewed each year through FYE25 pursuant to the appropriation of sufficient funding.

DISCUSSION:

In April of 2025 City of Norman staff were contacted by Norman Regional Hospital staff about decreasing the total annual contribution amount (\$50,000) by 50% to a new annual contribution amount of \$25,000 due to NRH financial constraints.

Staff have reviewed the budget for City transit services following expense reductions already made or proposed, as well as a slight increase in federal grant amounts for fiscal year 2026 that exceed the tentative amounts estimated during the initial budget process. Under the current preliminary budget, reducing this contribution will not impact the ability to maintain transit services at the current level proposed for fiscal year 2026, barring any unforeseen circumstances. A revised contract, K-2425-121, has been drafted to accommodate the decrease in funding as requested by NRH.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve Contract K-2425-121, providing for an Agreement between the City of Norman and the Norman Regional Hospital Authority, d/b/a Norman Regional Hospital, to provide \$25,000 annually to support paratransit services and receive ridership data reports.