

---

**Meeting Date:** April 14, 2025

**Subject:** MOU City of Yakima Lethality Assessment Program

**Attachments:** Resolution 2025-20; Forseti Joinder Agreement; MOU RA Partnership Agreement; Forseti EULA 2025

**Presented by:** Joseph Mehline, Public Safety Director of Police & Fire

**Approved for Agenda by:** Dan Ford, City Manager

---

**Discussion:**

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an evidence-based program started in Maryland, to reduce domestic violence homicides. The Program essentially has an 11-question “Lethality Screen” used on the scene during domestic violence calls to help identify victims at high risk of serious harm or death. If a victim screens as “High Danger,” officers can contact a domestic violence advocate and encourage the victim to speak with them directly, offering a more proactive response than simply providing pamphlets or contact information.

Beginning in 2023, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) launched an annual subscription service for its award-winning and research-based LAP. This new subscription service will re-certify and train current LAP implementers. The Subscription Model will allow current implementers to receive ongoing training and technical assistance to continue to serve local communities with the most up-to-date version of the LAP tool, protocol, and curriculum. Subscribers will also have access to MNADV’s LAP Database powered by Forseti, eLearning site, and access to the national LAP newsletter.

Yakima received funding for this and are allowing agencies to participate with them. As a participating agency we would receive training, submit screening data to track trends, and attend quarterly meetings.

The LAP is funded and will remain in place for the next three years, as Yakima Police Department (YPD) has secured grant funding through that period. They anticipate that additional funding through a STOP Grant may allow the program to continue beyond that timeframe.

However, if future grant funding cannot be secured and the program transitions to a cost-sharing model, each participating agency would be responsible for covering its share of the costs should they choose to continue using the LAP.

In review, the program provides training to the officers, utilizes an assessment protocol to intervene in abusive situations, and offers victims much-needed services by trained community professionals.

---

**Fiscal Impact:** Currently, there is no cost to the City of Toppenish. The MOU is good for 3 years, through 2025, 2026, and 2027.

**Recommendation:** Approve Resolution 2025-20, authorizing the city manager to sign the MOU City of Yakima RA partnership agreement, Forseti EULA 2025, and Forseti Joinder Agreement.

**Alternatives:** 1) Do not adopt. 2) Forward to Study Session for further review.