



**MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council

**THRU:**

**FROM:** Mike Reynolds, Police Chief

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of MOU and Budget Adjustment for Federal Funding from Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of a memorandum of understanding with Washington County, Arkansas to accept funding from the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$98,066.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Gulf Coast HIDTA provides funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement initiatives throughout Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. Since 2011, the Fayetteville Police Department has partnered with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Springdale Police Department, Prairie Grove Police Department and the local Drug Enforcement Administration office to create the Western Arkansas Mobile Deployment Team (WAMDT) initiative with Washington County being the fiduciary agency.

**DISCUSSION:**

WAMDT's mission is to infiltrate and disrupt drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) at the street level. The Gulf Coast HIDTA funds overtime for investigator activity, covert buy money for the purchase of evidence/purchase of information (PEPI), and vehicle allowances. The Gulf Coast HIDTA has approved 2023 funding for the Fayetteville Police Department in the amount of \$98,066. This amount represents overtime funding for four (4) investigators at \$9,747.75 each including benefits, PEPI in the amount \$50,675, and vehicle allowance in the amount of \$8,400. This funding has a two-year life span and must be spent by December 31, 2024. HIDTA funds are authorized for drug enforcement activity only, and HIDTA funds must supplement existing drug enforcement expenses. WAMDT is currently preparing their 2024 funding request to the Gulf Coast HIDTA; however, future allocations are contingent upon congressional approval.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

A budget adjustment will equally increase revenue and expense budgets in the amount of \$98,066 for this non-matching federal funding to reimburse existing DTF investigators overtime, covert funds, and vehicle allowances. This budget adjustment has no impact on staffing levels.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 2023-578 SRF - GCHIDTA 2023, 2023-578 BA - GCHIDTA 2023, MOU - Washington County

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