



MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council
THRU:
FROM: Mike Reynolds, Police Chief
DATE:
SUBJECT: **FY2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Grant Award**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of a non-matching grant award for the expansion of the Police Department's Wellness and Resiliency Program funded through the 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA), and the approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$200,000.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, has announced the 2023 LEMHWA grant awards. LEMHWA funds are used to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement officers through implementation and expansion of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs. Programs may also serve civilian staff who may regularly experience some of the same trauma exposure. The LEMHWA has a 2-year grant period, and LEMHWA awards are managed through the JustGrants web portal.

The Fayetteville Police Department was awarded an initial LEMHWA grant in October 2022 in the amount of \$94,810.73 to fund our Wellness and Resiliency Program and Peer to Peer Team. With these grant funds, the Peer to Peer Team received training and certification to provide all Fayetteville Police Department (FPD) employees with tangible emotional support through times of personal or professional crisis, to help anticipate and address potential difficulties, and to assist FPD and surrounding small-town agencies within Northwest Arkansas with critical incident response, defusing, debriefings, and individual peer discussions. To date, the FPD Peer Team spent 241 hours with area agencies that encountered officer involved shootings, officers killed in the line of duty, officer suicide, and an officer assaulted and seriously wounded.

DISCUSSION:

This new grant award in the amount of \$200,000 will expand and enhance our current Wellness and Resiliency Program by obtaining instructor certification for peer team members insuring adequate availability within our department in times of crisis. Grant funding will also provide for counseling sessions, obtaining certifications and attending training in the areas of nutrition, leadership, suicide prevention and stress management. Grant funding will be utilized for any overtime expenses incurred by peer team members in developing and implementing these resources. The 2023 LEMHWA grant has a two-year award period ending on September 30, 2025. Please see attached program narrative and budget narrative for details.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

Mailing address:

113 W. Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

www.fayetteville-ar.gov

This grant award does not require local matching funds and has no impact on staffing levels.

ATTACHMENTS: SRF (#3), BA (#4), SRM (#5), Award_Package_FAW-180156 (#6), 2023 LEMHWA Project Narrative (#7), 2023 LEMWHA Budget Narrative (#8)

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