



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** April 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Consider Resolution No. 2024-020, authorizing submission of the grant application and acceptance of allocated funds if awarded for the FY24 Community Oriented Policing Services Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Program.

PRESENTER: Mike Young, Chief of Police

SUMMARY:

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has announced the FY24 COPS Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) application, which provides funding to governmental agencies to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs. The Police Department will use the grant funds to support additional training and resources to enhance the existing peer support program. The mental and psychological health of our employees is paramount in keeping them effective in their jobs serving the community as personnel are exposed to continuous incidents of trauma and stress.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Police Department is seeking authorization to apply for and utilize grant funds offered through the FY24 COPS-LEMHWA application to support additional training and resources to enhance the existing peer support program. The Mental Health Sergeant and Mental Health Coordinator will assist the peer support team members in furthering their education through the implementation of professional training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices that are currently evidence based. Unfortunately, the stress of officers' work and the stigma often associated with seeking assistance for emotional and mental health issues have led to negative consequences such as divorce, alcoholism, injury, and even an increase in suicides for officers across the country.

A 2019 study conducted by the University of Texas at Dallas found that 26% of police officers screened positive for mental health conditions such as burnout, anxiety, depression, or PTSD. Compared to the general population, police personnel have approximately twice the prevalence of PTSD and depression. These findings highlight the need for continued routine mental health education and training within law enforcement agencies to ensure officers are able to implement and maintain their wellbeing; therefore,



ensuring a healthy and effective police force. The mental health and wellness of law enforcement professionals is a priority of the North Richland Hills Police Department. The healthier our professionals are mentally, emotionally, and physically, the better equipped the police department is to serve our community.

The FY24 COPS-LEMHWA is a two-year award program. The total grant request will not exceed \$200,000. There is no match requirement. If awarded, the funding will support additional training to enhance the peer support team which includes classes, conferences, and supplies to help enhance projects that provide support to law enforcement employees. The specified goals, objectives, and targets for the project are being developed and will be completed before the April 30, 2024 grant submission deadline.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider Resolution No. 2024-020, authorizing submission of the grant application and acceptance of allocated funds if awarded for the FY24 Community Oriented Policing Services Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Program.