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**Sponsor:** Sheriff's Office

**Meeting Date:** 11/14/2023

**Title:** Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act

**File Number:** 2023-498

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**Background and Rationale:**

On October 13, 2023, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, in the amount of \$181,900, for mental health and wellness services. This is the first time Ramsey County has received this grant award.

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 was signed into law in January 2018, recognizing that law enforcement agencies need and deserve support in ongoing efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of employees. Mental and psychological health is just as essential as physical health for employees to be effective in serving the community.

Compared to the general public, public safety employees are at a higher risk for negative physical and mental health outcomes, including early death, injuries and illnesses, obesity, heart attacks, and sleep disorders. During the average length of a career, law enforcement officers will witness and respond to 188 critical incidents, which without preparation, support, and mental health care, can have dramatic effects on short and long term physical and mental health.

The funding provided by this grant will be used to implement a continuum of care mental health model, which includes mental health outreach events and education, establishment of a peer-to-peer counselor and support programs, and staff events highlighting the availability of mental health services.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, in the amount of \$181,900 for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, upon execution through September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$181,900.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner McGuire. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board