

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Amendment for Governor's Crime Commission Grant (Grant Fund – Other Public Safety)

MEETING DATE: January 5, 2016

REQUESTED BY: Jennifer Chilton for Amanda L. Stone

Background information

On a given day in 2014, over 1,670 individuals accessed services from local domestic and family violence programs in North Carolina. Forty-eight percent of those victims received non-residential assistance, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups. In the midst of trauma and danger, these individuals must often navigate a fragmented system to get the help they need. Buncombe County's Family Justice Center will bring together a range of services under one roof: law enforcement, governmental agencies, and non-profits to provide comprehensive services to adult victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Buncombe County has been awarded a grant from North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, utilizing Federal Victims of Crime Act funds. This 2-year grant provides funding for technology, supplies, equipment and training and will also support contract partners to provide intake, therapy, case management and legal services.

Pro's

The Family Justice Center model not only provides for a more supportive experience for victims, it also increases efficiency in service provision, reduces victim recantation, increases prosecution of offenders, and ultimately reduces crime.

Con's

None noted.

Funds required in current budget:

The grant requires a 20% match which is being provided through in-kind contributions and does not involve county funds in the current budget.

Funds required in future budgets:

There are no county funds required in future budgets.

Alternatives

Action recommended:

Allocate funding for in the amount of \$1,407,099 in new grant dollars.