



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 22, 2022

DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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Psychological Services for Police, Fire, Airport, and Municipal Court
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CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing a three-year service agreement with Kathryn W. Soward, Ph.D., of Corpus Christi in an amount not to exceed \$122,500.00 for psychological services for Police, Fire, Airport, and Municipal Court personnel with FY 2022 funding of \$34,028.00 available from the General and Airport Funds.

SUMMARY:

This Resolution authorizes a three-year service agreement for psychological services with Police, Fire, Airport, and Municipal Court. These services are necessary to ensure that recommended candidates are psychologically fit to perform their required duties.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The psychological services provided through this agreement include a state-mandated evaluation to determine if recommended candidates are psychologically fit to perform the duties of police officer, firefighter, crime scene technician, dispatcher, airport public safety officer, and Municipal Court Marshal.

Provided services also will include consultations, counseling, and support services for officers and civilian employees of Police, Fire, Airport, and Municipal Court on an as needed basis.

Dr. Soward has been providing psychological services for the City of Corpus Christi for the past five years and the City is satisfied with her services. Since she was awarded the initial contract for her services, Dr. Soward has developed a positive working relationship with City staff. The relationship of trust and excellent rapport that Dr. Soward has established with both officers and civilians in the City's Police, Fire, and Airport departments could not be readily gained if a new psychologist was utilized. Therefore, it is recommended that the City continue utilizing Dr. Soward and to retain her for this new psychological services contract.

The current contract with Dr. Soward is a three-year term for \$78,750. The City previously went through a competitive process in 2017 to acquire these psychological services, however, Dr. Soward was the only bidder at that time.

For the proposed agreement, the price increased to \$175/hour (current agreement is \$150/hour). Also, the hours in the proposed agreement have increased to 700, up from 525 in the current agreement. A large portion of the increases in both price and hours in the proposed contract is due to larger academies and additional dispatchers that were added by State Law requirement.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

This procurement falls under a statutory exception within Local Government Code 252.022(a)(4) as these services are for personal, professional and/or planning services.

Continuity is an important part of psychological services and City staff feels because this professional service falls under an exemption that currently there is not the need to perform a formal solicitation. Staff feels comfortable continuing to partner with Dr. Soward and would prefer to not disrupt any ongoing client patient relationships. As such, it is staff's recommendation to enter into a new three-year agreement.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to authorize an agreement with Dr. Soward, but the City would be in violation of State law if it did not provide psychological examinations for candidates for Airport, Police, Fire, Municipal Court Marshals, Dispatchers, and Crime Scene Technicians.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact in FY 2022 is \$34,028.00 to be funded by the General Fund and Airport Fund.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1020
Organization/Activity:	11700 Police Administration
Mission Element:	151
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530000
Amount:	\$28,028.00

Fund:	1020
Organization/Activity:	10420 Municipal Court
Mission Element:	232
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530000
Amount:	\$2,000.00

Fund:	1020
Organization/Activity:	12000 Fire Administration
Mission Element:	093 Emergency Response
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530000 Professional Services
Amount:	\$2,000.00

Fund:	4610
Organization/Activity:	35050 Airport
Mission Element:	272
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	530000 Professional Services
Amount:	\$2,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this resolution authorizing a three-year agreement with Kathryn W. Soward, Ph.D., for providing psychological services, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Price Sheet
Service Agreement