

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Amendment for Family Justice Center Arrest Grant (Grant Fund – Other Public Safety)

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2015

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 United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders.

This 3-year grant establishes “front door” services for the center, intake and security personnel – as well as funds new technology for the center.

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:

There are no matching funds required.

Funds required in future budgets:

There are no county funds required in future budgets.

Alternatives

Action recommended:

Allocate funding for in the amount of \$ 444,369 in new grant dollars.