



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 20

Agenda Date: May 9, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Christopher Monestier

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Professional Service Agreement Amendment for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes an amendment to the contract with David A Marks, MD, PA, to add one Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) for a one-year term commencing June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025 for an additional estimated amount of \$142,826.00. This would increase the total contract value to an estimated \$1,790,826.00. Funding in the amount of \$47,192.00 is from the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Fire Department has had a psychologist on staff for over 35 years to address the behavioral health needs of its first responders. To increase the department's internal behavioral health services, the Fire Department received funding for a second staff psychologist in the FY 2024 budget. To fill this position, the job opening was posted on the City's web site in September 2023. Additionally, the job opening was posted with the Psychology departments at UTSA, UT at Arlington, and Texas State University, with the Social-Organizational Psychology PHD Community, NYU Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Austin Association for

Industrial/Organization Psychology, on the City HR Facebook and Twitter pages, LinkedIn, National Register of Health Service Psychologists, and the American Psychological Association. As of February 27, 2024, only one application was received.

The departments existing staff psychologist retired from the City January 31, 2024, leaving the Fire Department with no professional in-house behavioral health support.

SAFD has an existing contract with Dr. David Marks to provide medical oversight and staffing of two Nurse Practitioners at its Wellness Center. The dedicated nurse practitioners, experienced in occupational medicine, conduct examinations to determine if an employee has a potentially life-threatening medical condition that requires treatment necessary to ensure that activities detrimental to the health and well-being of the employee are altered or ceased. The contract, approved by Ordinance 2023-09-14-0637 has a term from September 15, 2023, through September 30, 2026, with up to two (2) one-year extensions.

ISSUE:

To address the absence of in-house professional behavioral health support, the department would like to amend the existing contract with David A. Marks, MD, PA, to add a full-time, on-site, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner that would be available to SAFD leadership, personnel and family members for behavioral health needs.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this contract not be approved, the San Antonio Fire Department would continue to advertise to fill the vacant city positions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Ordinance authorizing an amendment to the contract with David A Marks, MD, PA, to add one Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) for a one-year term commencing June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025 for an additional estimated amount of \$142,826.00. This would increase the total contract value to an estimated \$1,790,826.00. Funding in the amount of \$47,192.00 is from the General Fund FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Funding for subsequent years is contingent upon City Council approval of the annual budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance that authorizes the contract amendment with David A. Marks, MD, PA, to provide a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for the Fire Department.