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April 8, 2024

# Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

Mary Scherling Portfolio Commissioner  
Cass County Commission  
Cass County Courthouse  
Fargo, ND 58103

Consent Agenda: Action Requested

Chairman Chad Peterson,

Re: Request for the Commission's approval to apply for grant funding to provide access to mental health and officer wellness support to all current and retired law enforcement and corrections staff in the state of North Dakota. For the past four years, the Cass County Sheriff's Office has been collaborating with law enforcement partners to address the critical unmet need for statewide support for officers experiencing trauma on the job and the serious consequences to their physical and mental health.

Cass County Sheriff's Office is requesting Commission approval to apply for grant funding to provide access to mental health and officer wellness support to all current and retired law enforcement and corrections staff in the state of North Dakota. For the past four years, the Cass County Sheriff's Office has been collaborating with law enforcement partners to address the critical unmet need for statewide support for officers experiencing trauma on the job and the serious consequences to their physical and mental health.

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Program (LEMHWA) is administered through the Department of Justice's COPS office. (<https://cops.usdoj.gov/lemhwa>). Grants are awarded for a two-year period in the amount of \$200,000 per award. The proposal would provide access to specialized trauma therapy for any law enforcement agency in the state and targeted support after critical incidents. Cass County Sheriff's Office, along with partners West Fargo Police Department, Ward County Sheriff's Office, and Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, value the support of the Commission in considering this opportunity.

*Suggested Motion:* approval to apply for grant funding to provide access to mental health and officer wellness support to all current and retired law enforcement and corrections staff in the state of North Dakota.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,

Dean J. Haaland  
Chief Deputy  
Cass County Sheriff's Office

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