

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date: November 4, 2024

Action Required:

- Appropriate funding from the Virginia Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$115,400.58
- Execute the Statement of Grant Award/Acceptance

Presenter: Susan Marrow

Staff Contacts: Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager

Title: Resolution to appropriate funding from the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant - \$115,400.58 (2nd reading)

Background

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket program, has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$115,400.58 for operations of the therapeutic docket program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant.

Discussion

In its fifth year of operation, the Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket program is a supervised 9 to 12 month treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The Therapeutic Docket is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving adult misdemeanor offenders who suffer from serious mental illness. The program uses the power of the court to assist offenders to achieve wellness and recovery through a combined system of intensive supervision, medication management, mental health treatment, and regular court appearances.

The total program budget is **\$301,938.58** and includes three funding sources:

Supreme Court of VA:	\$115,400.58
City of Charlottesville:	\$127,050, (previously appropriated)
Albemarle County:	\$59,488, (previously appropriated)

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This relates to the City of Charlottesville's priority area of safety/criminal justice. The Therapeutic Docket is a valuable, less expensive alternative to incarceration for certain criminal offenders with serious mental illness which utilizes a blend of court-ordered supervision, mental health treatment

services, court appearances, and behavioral sanctions and incentives to reduce recidivism and enhance personal accountability and mental health and wellness among participants.

Community Engagement

The Therapeutic Docket is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with serious mental illness who are at a high level of risk for reoffending and have a high level of need due to mental illness. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board and Partner for Mental Health, the Therapeutic Docket provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Therapeutic Docket through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the General District Court. If they successfully complete the program which takes a minimum of 9 months, participants may have their pending charges dismissed or receive an all-suspended sentence. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Therapeutic Docket participants return the community's investment in them by improving their mental health status, maintaining compliance with treatment regimens, including medications, and reducing their criminal behaviors in the community.

Budgetary Impact

No additional City funding is required as the City's match for this grant, \$127,050, was appropriated within the FY 2025 Council Approved Budget as part of the City's contribution to Offender Aid and Restoration.

Recommendation

- Staff recommends the appropriation of \$115,400.58 from the Virginia Supreme Court Behavioral Health Docket Grant.
- Staff recommends approval for the City Manager to execute the Statement of Grant Award/Acceptance.

Alternatives

Council may elect not to accept the funds from the Virginia Supreme Court Behavioral Health Docket Grant which will significant impact the services O.A.R. can provide to offenders as an alternative for incarceration.

Attachments

1. Resolution- Virginia Supreme Court Behavioral Health Docket Grant- Therapeutic Docket FY 25 Appropriation
2. Statement of Grant Award/ Acceptance