

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2020

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN FORSYTH COUNTY, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS TO HIRE THREE LEGAL ASSISTANTS TO ADDRESS THE EXPANDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASELOAD IN THE 31<sup>ST</sup> PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Throughout the past several fiscal years, as grant funding has gone away, the Board of Commissioners has funded several positions that are traditionally state-funded positions to address domestic violence in Forsyth County. These positions were eliminated in the FY21 Adopted Budget in order to enhance funding of the Safe on Seven program by funding other positions consistent with the Guilford model Family Justice Center.

The District Attorney's Office has requested the County to fund three Legal Assistant positions for three months as it acquires funding for these three positions from the Governors' Crime Commission. The District Attorney has received notification from the Governors' Crime Commission that their application has been chosen to proceed in the grant process and they will receive approximately \$140,000 for these positions to be funded. Funding will be officially available October 1, 2020.

In order to accommodate this request, a transfer from Contingency is necessary. Additionally, the Administrative Office of the Courts does not enter into contracts less than twelve months so the County will need to enter into a twelve-month contract for these positions. However, the County will be able to unencumber this contract in October once the District Attorney's Office has received the grant and the remaining funds will be transferred back to Contingency.

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE:

*J. Dudley Watts Jr.*  
COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: August 25, 2020

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
FORSYTH COUNTY, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND THE NORTH  
CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS TO HIRE THREE  
LEGAL ASSISTANTS TO ADDRESS THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASELOAD  
IN THE 31<sup>ST</sup> PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** the District Attorney's Office has requested assistance with addressing the domestic violence caseload in the 31<sup>st</sup> Prosecutorial District by funding three Legal Assistant positions for three months while it waits for additional funding from the Governors' Crime Commission;

**WHEREAS** Forsyth County will need to transfer funds from Contingency to assist with funding these positions;

**WHEREAS** under the terms of the agreement, Forsyth County agrees to pay the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC), on behalf of the District Attorney, the amounts specified therein to hire three Legal Assistants, and the NCAOC agrees to administer the funds on behalf of the District Attorney for the positions;

**WHEREAS** in addition to the direct personnel costs, Forsyth County will be responsible under the contract for operating and related costs and unforeseen expenses for unemployment, workers compensation, and disability claims associated with the positions, which may increase the County's financial obligation above and beyond the base amount of the contract; and

**WHEREAS** the County Manager has made the Board of Commissioners aware of the potential additional expenses associated with the position and the Board is willing to hire the employees to address the expanding domestic violence caseload;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners that the Chairman or County Manager and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, the attached agreement between Forsyth County, the District Attorney, and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts in the amount of \$175,033 to hire three Legal Assistants to address the domestic violence caseload in the 31<sup>st</sup> Prosecutorial District, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney. The original contract #2021-0106-00 is incorporated herein by reference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that staff is directed to unencumber this contract and transfer unspent funds back to Contingency as soon as the funding from the Governors' Crime Commission is available to the District Attorney's Office or report back to the Board of Commissioners any further issues with this contract.

Adopted this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.