

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 14, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to retroactively increase a 2024 purchase of service contract with First Transit, Inc. by \$57,700 for specialized transportation services for older adults

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

DHHS is requesting authorization to retroactively increase a 2024 purchase of service contract with First Transit, Inc. by \$57,700 effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. This would increase the existing contract of \$1,550,940 to \$1,608,640 for specialized transportation services for older adult residents of Milwaukee County.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of DHHS is requesting authorization to execute this fee for services contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

Access to services for older adults begins with access to transportation. For many older adult residents of Milwaukee County, transportation becomes a barrier to aging in place due to lack of access to a personal vehicle, loss of driving privileges, limited public transportation options, mobility challenges, and limited income.

First Transit, Inc. served Milwaukee County's older adult residents as the Older Adult Transportation Services (OATS) specialized transportation provider from January 2021 through December 2024. In 2023, First Transit was acquired by Transdev. As the OATS provider, Transdev successfully transitioned the leadership while continuing to provide door through door transportation for residents of Milwaukee County 60 years of age and older who do not have access to alternative transportation.

Rides provided through this contract are funded by Wisconsin Stat. § 85.21 specialized

transportation aid, federal Older Americans Act funds, Older American Acts ARPA Allocation, and the Basic County Allocation fund. Non-emergency medical transportation rides funded with 85.21 funds require a \$4 co-pay in 2024. Although non-medical rides are provided for free, as mandated by the Older Americans Act, riders are given the opportunity to support this program through donations.

OATS sustained the expanded service provisions that began in 2022, including transportation to civic and cultural sites and group grocery rides for senior housing sites and in 2024 the OATS program saw an additional increase in service demand. While OATS was budgeted to provide 40,000 rides, OATS provided 40,288 rides in 2024. Service demand has increased with OATS riders taking more rides post-pandemic. Service demand growth is also a result of the growth in the County's older adult population (60 years+), with over 1,400 new riders enrolled into OATS in 2024.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

By supporting access to non-emergency medical appointments and nutrition access; this contract directly supports 3A: by investing "upstream" to address root causes of health disparities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to retroactively increase a 2024 purchase of service contract with First Transit, Inc. by \$57,700 effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. This would increase the existing contract of \$1,550,940 to \$1,608,640 for specialized transportation services for older adult residents of Milwaukee County.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note is attached.

TERMS

This contract is effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Claire Enders, Transportation Coordinator, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance
Steve Cady, Research Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP