

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
District Attorney's Office
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 4, 2017 Legistar File No. 17-406

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: District Attorney's Office

Subject: Assignment of Additional County Vehicle to District Attorney's Office for MacArthur Grant CART Project

We are requesting, pursuant to section 56.22 of the county general ordinances, the assignment of an additional county vehicle to the district attorney's office for the MacArthur grant countywide Crisis Assessment Response Teams (CART) project.

County Board Resolution 17-320, adopted on April 20, 2017, approved funding in the courts' budget, with the consent of the chief judge under the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Phase II Implementation grant award, for the creation of 1.0 FTE position of district attorney investigator. The MacArthur grant funding is for 18 months, with the option to extend if additional MacArthur grant award funds are available, in the amount of \$150,000 for the investigator's salary and fringe benefits. We are requesting, by separate action item this cycle, the creation of the new district attorney investigator position authorized by the MacArthur grant.


The Safety and Justice Challenge Phase II Implementation MacArthur grant award includes funding to enhance Crisis Assessment Response Teams (CART) for county residents experiencing mental health crises. The district attorney investigator funded by the MacArthur grant will serve as the law enforcement professional on the first countywide CART team to respond with a behavioral health clinician to emergency calls of county residents suffering mental health crises.

The CART district attorney investigator will work closely with mental and behavioral health crisis response workers to respond as a team to law enforcement incidents in which citizens are in need of emergency mental health services, and to provide direct services to citizens in need as a potential alternative to incarceration. The service area will be primarily in the suburban jurisdictions of the county, which are currently underserved.

The CART district attorney investigator position requires a specially-equipped, larger model law enforcement sport utility vehicle with emergency lights, siren, and police radio, in addition to special equipment to allow for the safe, secure, and sanitary transport of persons experiencing a mental health crisis. No such specially-equipped vehicle exists in the current district attorney fleet.

The district attorney's office is responsible for absorbing in its adopted 2017 budget the costs of the requested county vehicle for the countywide CART project. Fleet Management estimates the costs of the CART vehicle and special equipment, including vehicle maintenance, fuel, and debt service, to be \$57,000, amortized over seven years at an annual cost of approximately \$8,143. The district attorney's office will absorb the 2017 costs in its adopted budget and ask Fleet Management to include the 2018 charges for the CART project vehicle in the recommended budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



John T. Chisholm
District Attorney