

**Item Title:** Accept and Appropriate Federal Grant Funds for Accreditation Program Grant and Establish 1.000 FTE

**Specific Action Requested:**  
**That the Board of Commissioners:**

- 1. Accepts and appropriates \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services into the Grants and Donations Fund for Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and**
- 2. Authorizes and establishes 1.000 FTE in the Grants and Donations fund for WCSO for the duration of this grant.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget for a fund.

**Background:** On October 10, 2025, WCSO was notified of a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), FY2025 Community Policing Development (CPD) Accreditation: Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation Program. These grant funds will be utilized to hire a full-time employee, Accreditation and Quality Assurance Specialist, to assist with obtaining the initial accreditation goal anticipated to be completed over the next two years. This position will ensure consistent quality of program services, coordination of operations, monitor and review work products and documents necessary for professional credentials relative to establishing standards, regulations, and obligations to receive professional credentials to obtain accreditation. Wake County will focus on use of force, internal affairs, recruitment and hiring practices, community engagement, emergency response protocols, and training.

This grant award is in the amount of \$250,000 for a two-year period, from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2027. Each year, the \$125,000 funding award covers expenses including salaries and benefits for one (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) civilian position serving as the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Specialist. Additionally, the funding will support trainings costs, travel expenses, program supplies, and annual contractual costs associated with the program.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports Safer Community Together Goal 3: By 2029, reduce the Wake County violent crime rate per 100,000 people by 5%.

Fiscal Impact: No Wake County Matching funds are being requested. At the conclusion of the grant, the Sheriff's Office will assess the program and consider requesting local funds for continuation.

**Additional Information:**

Community Policing Development (CPD) funds are used to develop the capacity of law enforcement to implement community policing strategies by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies, building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities.

1. Various supplies are essential for the requested position of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Specialist to perform this job successfully and the implementation of our agency's accreditation process.
2. Through the process of receiving accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), there are several procurement items and/or contracts that are required to comply with the requirements for our accreditation process.
3. During the accreditation process for both years, a designee(s) will attend Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Network (NCLEAN) conferences in various areas throughout the United States. Attendance is important for law enforcement professionals and public safety agencies for several reasons. It is important to attend these conferences as an opportunity to obtain vital information to grow professionally, improve agency performance, ensure compliance, and contribute to the future of law enforcement accreditation. It underscores a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in public safety services.

**Attachments:**

1. Award Letter
2. Budget Memo - FY2026 Grants and Donations Fund
3. Budget Memo – FY2026 Personal Ordinance