

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate Federal Funds from an Existing North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Grant

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Accepts and appropriates \$67,261 into the Grants and Donations Fund for Wake County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO); and**
- 2. Reallocates \$178,199 from the FY2025 WCSO General Fund Budget to the WCSO Grants and Donations Fund.**

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 September 16, 2024, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the Wake County Manager to file an application for a North Carolina GHSP Grant in the amount of \$67,261. The Wake County Sheriff’s Office was awarded the grant on September 27, 2024. The funding award is consistent with the requested project total amount of \$269,044, which covers personnel expenses for our Crash Reduction Unit (CRU). The expenses include salaries and benefits for three full-time equivalent (FTE) deputy sheriff positions, traffic materials, and travel expenses to attend safety conferences.

The CRU will use the awarded funds to continue efforts to lower the fatality crash rate in Wake County. The CRU is dedicated to traffic safety, enforcement, education, and other crash reduction efforts. This unit will continue to target areas of aggressive and distracted driving, along with other areas of needed enforcement efforts related to speeding, seatbelt usage, and young driver accidents.

The allocation of these funds will support the salary and fringe benefits for three FTE deputy sheriff positions, as well as traffic materials and travel expenses associated with in-state and out-of-state traffic safety conferences.

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: The grant requires a \$201,783 cash match from County dollars. These expenditures can be accommodated through the requested

realignment of the current year budget of the WCSO General Fund Budget into the WCSO Grants and Donations budget. No additional County Matching funds are being requested.

Additional Information:

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program

The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (GSHP) is a state administered program housed within the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The North Carolina GHSP helps fund the efforts of law enforcement agencies, local governments, community organizations, schools, and nonprofit organizations to reduce traffic crashes in North Carolina. The North Carolina GHSP allocates federal grants to local agencies to address the following areas of highway safety:

- Drunken driving
- Seat belt safety
- Police traffic services
- Young drivers
- Motorcycle safety
- Traffic record keeping

With a steady influx of people and commuters into Wake County, there is an increased need for officers to assist with incidents. Expanding the CRU provides an opportunity to increase seat belt safety, decrease traffic, speeding, and DWI fatalities for drivers, both young and old.

The CRU will engage with the community to educate citizens of Wake County about the dangers of speeding, driving while intoxicated, distracted driving, and unrestrained driving. The CRU will also focus on continuing to target areas of aggressive and distracted driving, along with the other areas of needed enforcement, such as speeding, seatbelt usage, driving while impaired (DWI), and young driver accidents. To identify these specific target enforcement areas, WCSO will use the Safety Dashboard – NC Vision Zero provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to pinpoint target enforcement areas within our jurisdiction.

The three goals of the CRU that were identified in the grant application include:

- Reduce the number of fatal crashes in Wake County by 10%.
- Reduce the number of speed related crashes in Wake County by 10%
- Reduce the number of young driver fatal crashes in Wake County by 10%.

The table below details the costs for each year of the program, along with breakout of the funding sources for the program. The matching requirement increases in each year of the grant. The Sheriff's Office intends to apply for additional federal funding for FY2026, if applicable, but the County share of costs is currently unknown.

| Grant Year | Federal Share | Federal Amount | Wake County Share | Wake County Amount | Total Project Cost |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Year 1 (FY22) | 85% | \$304,266 | 15% | \$ 53,694 | \$357,960 |
| Year 2 (FY23) | 70% | \$152,619 | 30% | \$ 65,408 | \$218,027 |
| Year 3 (FY24) | 50% | \$125,161 | 50% | \$125,161 | \$250,322 |
| Year 4 (FY25) | 25% | \$ 67,261 | 75% | \$201,783 | \$269,044 |

Attachments:

1. GHSP Award Letter
2. Signed Resolution and Agreement of Conditions
3. Grants and Donations Budget Memo
4. Personnel Budget Memo