

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate \$140,000 in Grant Funds Awarded by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to Wake County EMS for the Wake Community Paramedicine Program

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Accepts and appropriates \$140,000 in revenues and expenditures to the Grants and Donations Fund from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to be used for the Department of EMS's advanced practice paramedic program; and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute the two-year service agreement with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

Item Summary:

In 2015, the North Carolina Legislature appropriated funds to support community paramedicine pilot programs that already actively provide service. The focus of the grant awards is to expand the role of paramedics to allow for community-based initiatives that result in providing care that avoids nonemergency use of emergency rooms and 911 services and avoids unnecessary admissions into health care facilities.

The Wake County Department of Emergency Medical Services applied for the grant based on the Advanced Practice Paramedic (APP) program. The APP program was one of the first community paramedic programs in the country and has a triple aim to respond, reduce, and redirect. Wake County APPs respond to high acuity calls to ensure that an experienced provider responds to all critical patients, they reduce the need for emergency resources such as 911 ambulances and the emergency room through well person visits and chronic disease management services, and they redirect patients (substance abuse, mental health crisis, and falls in facilities) through patient navigation services to ensure that patients receive the right care at the right facility. Two of the three components of the Wake County APP program specifically meet the objectives of the grant focus.

The North Carolina Legislature extended the grant timeline through FY2019. The Department of EMS staff have begun the process to accept the grant. This grant award is in the amount of \$70,000 each fiscal year for a total amount of \$140,000. This grant funding does not require any matching county funding. It also does not have any requirements to continue programs at the completion of the grant period.

Wake County will enter into a two-year contract with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and invoice NCDHHS periodically. The Department of EMS will also be required to provide reports and data to show completion of the agreed upon work plan.

Attachments:

- 1. Budget Memo**