

**Item Title:** Authorize the Wake County Sheriff's Office to apply for a Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners approves a resolution authorizing the Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to file an application for a North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant funding totaling \$304,266.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The WCSO is requesting that the Board of Commissioners authorize WCSO to submit the approved grant application for the North Carolina's Governor's Highway Safety Program.

**Background:** The North Carolina's Governor's Highway Safety Program has accepted the submitted application for \$304,266 to receive funding to be used within the guidelines of the grant for traffic safety and enforcement in Wake County.

If awarded, the Wake County Sheriff's Office will use this grant to form a Crash Reduction Unit (CRU) to combat the high number of motor vehicle crash fatalities in Wake County. This team will be dedicated to traffic safety, enforcement, education, and other crash reduction efforts. CRU will target areas of aggressive and distracted driving, along with other areas of needed enforcement such as speeding, seatbelt usage and young driver accidents.

**Board Goal:** This action supports Public Safety Goal 3: Provide high-quality and sustainable public safety services to meet the community's current and future needs.

**Fiscal Impact:** The total costs for the first year of the Crash Reduction Unit would be \$357,960. The federal grant would cover 85 percent of the costs, or \$304,266. The grant requires a 15 percent County match totaling \$53,694, which would be met with funds included in the Sheriff's FY 2022 Adopted Budget. If awarded, the WCSO would ask the commissioners to authorize the 3.00 FTEs for the Crash Reduction Unit.

If awarded in FY 2022, the WCSO may reapply for continuation of federal funding for the program in FY 2023 and FY 2024, but the required County share of costs would increase to 30 percent in FY 2023 and 50 percent in FY 2024. The WCSO would request additional County funding to cover the local share of costs in FY 2023 and beyond, including the full costs once federal funding expires.

## **Additional Information**

### **Governor's Highway Safety Program**

The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GSHP) is a state administered program housed within the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The GHSP helps fund the efforts of law enforcement agencies, local governments, community organizations, schools and nonprofits to reduce traffic crashes in North Carolina. The 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

### **WCSO Program Goals**

Wake County has more fatalities than 98 of 100 counties in North Carolina. Between 2015 and 2019, Wake County averaged; 67.6 traffic related fatalities, ranking second in the state; 10.4 young driver involved fatal crashes, also ranking second in the state; 17 unrestrained fatalities, ranking third in the state; 52 persons seriously injured in speed-related crashes, ranking first in the state. Wake County ranks within the top 3 counties across the state of North Carolina in every category of the county level data provided by GHSP except for bicyclist fatalities, ranking fifth in the state.

The goals of the Crash Reduction Unit, detailed in the grant application, include:

- Reduce the 5-year average for number of fatal crashes by 10% from 63 to 56 by September 30, 2022
- Reduce the 5-year average for the number of speed related crashes by 10% from 1,590 to 1,431 by September 30, 2022
- Reduce the 5-year average for the number of fatal crashes involving young drivers (under 20) by 10% from 10.4 to 9 by September 30, 2022.

### **Costs Details**

The first table below details the costs for the first year of the program, along with breakout of the funding sources for the program. In the first year, the federal grant covers 85% of the total program costs. The Sheriff's Office may reapply for continuation of the federal funding in FY 2023 and FY2024, but the County share of costs would increase in each of those years as detailed in the second table below.

Year 1 (FY 2022) Program Budget			
Category	Federal Share	County Share	Total
Salary and Benefits (3 Deputies)	164,016	28,944	192,960
Supplies and Equipment	135,150	23,850	159,000
Training and Development	5,100	900	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$304,266</b>	<b>\$53,694</b>	<b>\$357,960</b>

Grant Year	Federal Share	Wake County Share
Year 1 (FY22)	85%	15%
Year 2 (FY23)	70%	30%
Year 3 (FY24)	50%	50%

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. Grant Application
3. Grant Terms and Conditions