



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Suzanne Sherman, City Manager

THRU: City Manager's Office

DATE: July 18, 2024

RE: Discussion of Process to Utilize Opioid Settlement Funds (AGENDA REVISION)

SUMMARY:

The City of Palm Bay previously joined the class-action lawsuits regarding the opioid crisis and the City has now been receiving settlement funding and setting it aside in a separate account. The funding is coming from seven different companies and the details of the settlements, including how the amounts are calculated and when the payments end varies between the agreements. Generally speaking, the payments will end anywhere 2028 to 2040. For FY 23, the City received \$89,397.57. For FY 24, the City received \$189,221.79. Due to the variable nature of the funding, staff is recommending a process that will determine uses once the annual amount is known.

Schedule A and B attached to this memo provides the details of the approved uses of settlement funds. Schedule A includes Core Abatement Strategies, which include the categories of medication to reverse overdoses, medication-assisted and other opioid-related treatment, support for pregnant and postpartum women, expanding treatment for neonatal abstinence syndrome babies, expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services, treatment for incarcerated population, prevention programs, expanding syringe service programs, and evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of abatement strategies.

All of these strategies are further described in Schedule B under the categories of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies, and under each category there are numerous examples provided of specific things the funds can be used to accomplish. As the opioid crisis has a direct impact on both Police and Fire Departments, one suggestion for uses of the funds is to use it internally on eligible expenditures to support public safety staff. Examples include mental health and wellness services and/or education and training for staff involved in responding. Additionally, equipment can be purchased to assist in response to an opioid crisis. And lastly, the potential to fund a law enforcement position to assist with education and training in schools.

The other suggestion for the use of funds is to engage with the resources in our community to identify agencies and nonprofits who can provide services directly to those impacted in our City. Based on City Council direction, staff is recommending that Council consider the use of a Request for Information (RFI) process that can be used to reach agencies and nonprofits in our area. The RFI would seek responses back from interested parties to determine what programs or services they would be able to provide in accordance with Schedule A and B to directly impact our community. If approved to move forward at this meeting, staff would distribute the RFI in August and bring the results back to Council in the September/October 2024 timeframe.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

City Manager's Office

FISCAL IMPACT:

NA

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to direct staff to conduct a Request for Information process to engage agencies and nonprofits on proposed uses of Opioid Settlement Funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Schedule A
2. Schedule B