



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director  
**RE:** City of Bellingham – Alternative Response Team Pilot Program Agreement Amendment #3  
**DATE:** APRIL 17, 2024

Attached is an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature. This amendment extends the agreement for six months and adds a provision to permit amendments that do not require Council authorization per WCC 3.06.010 or 3.08.100, to be executed with mutual written consent of the parties.

## ▪ Background and Purpose

This agreement commits funding from the City of Bellingham for staffing and implementation of the ART Program. The Alternative Response Team (ART) Program provides critical services to community members in crisis or who are at risk of being in crisis. ART aims to reduce the burden on Bellingham law enforcement by diverting lower-risk calls to a behavioral health team. ART responds to low-risk, low-acuity and non-criminal calls. ART is deployed by staff based at WhatComm 911, 10 hours/day, 5 days/week (currently Monday-Friday).

## ▪ Funding Amount and Source

No additional funding is added to the agreement. Funding for this agreement period (07/01/2024 – 12/31/2024), in an amount not to exceed \$402,179, is provided by the City of Bellingham. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

## ▪ Differences from Previous Contracts

Section	Purpose
<b>General Terms – Section 2. Term</b>	Extends the agreement period through 12/31/2024 and adds a provision to permit amendments that do not require Council authorization per WCC 3.06.010 or 3.08.100, to be executed with mutual written consent of the parties
<b>General Terms – Section 5. Funds Provided &amp; Method of Payment</b>	Extends the agreement period through 12/31/2024

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6163 ([MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.