



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: City of Bellingham – Alternative Response Team Pilot Program Contract Amendment #1
DATE: February 21, 2023

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Alternative Response Team (ART) Pilot Program takes a collaborative approach that brings law enforcement, emergency medical response, human services, and other community responders together to create individualized plans to minimize the impact of individuals identified as having a very high impact on each of those systems. ART will be deployed by staff based at What-Comm, 10 hours/day, 7 days/week and there will be a dedicated communication channel and work station for ART at the What-Comm call center.

This contract dedicates funding from the City of Bellingham for staffing and implementation of the ART Pilot Program. This amendment increases 2023 funding by \$62,969 to support additional supplies, equipment, travel, training and evaluation.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract is provided by the City of Bellingham in an amount not to exceed \$322,179 in 2023. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Revision Purpose
General Terms – Section 5.	Increases 2023 funding by \$62,969 and adds provisions for the County to submit documentation of expenditures of the additional funds.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6163 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

