



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Public Safety Commission

Recommendation Number: 20240304-005:
Recommendation for FY24-25 Budget Cycle

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Commission has discussed topics with the Austin Fire Department, the Austin Police Department, Austin-Travis County EMS, additional city departments, and community organizations that coordinate with our public safety departments; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of those discussions various departments have expressed programmatic and departmental needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Safety Commission encourages the Austin Fire Department, the Austin Police Department, Austin Travis County EMS, and Austin City Council to allocate funds and explore all available means to incorporate the following priorities into the FY24-25 Budget:

- Public Safety Wellness Center - funding for Electronic Medical Records and market salary adjustments to address physician shortage
- Sobering Center - adjustment of base operational budget allotted to continue 24/7 operations and for expanded use of pop-ups in entertainment districts across the city
- Language & Interpretation Services - budget assessment and additional dollars to expand stipends for fluency in multiple languages, expand written materials to include more languages (including ASL and Braille), and continuing education opportunities for both sworn and unsworn staff
- Opioid use mitigation and education efforts - funding for any needed expansion of self-serve naran kit stations throughout the city, staffing, and supplies
- Community Health Paramedics - funding for additional FTEs and/or market salary adjustments to expand and better leverage our community health paramedic program
- Extreme Weather Preparedness - budget assessment of any outstanding unmet needs for public safety departments response and readiness in frequent extreme weather responses
- Wildfire - assessment of funds needed to increase outreach in Eastern Crescent and grow education efforts in underserved areas of urban wildfire landscape

Date of Approval: March 4, 2024

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0 vote, Commissioners Hall-Martin and Hermesmeyer were absent.

Attest: Christi Vitela

(Staff or board member can sign)