Pretrial Services - New Positions - Two Electronic Monitoring Officers

Briefing Date: Jun 2 2020
Funding Source: General Fund - Emergency Reserve
Originating Department: Budget
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The Dallas County Pretrial Services Department's workload and responsibilities have expanded and is experiencing an increase in new defendants being ordered on Electronic Monitoring.

Additional Electronic Monitoring Officers Needed
The Electronic Monitoring Program is the highest level of supervision that Pretrial Services utilizes. Currently, the department has eight Electronic Monitoring Officers who are responsible for monitoring up to 30 defendants with a GPS monitor. Defendants on the program are generally felony-level defendants that the court has determined are in need of high-level supervision while on bond.

The eight existing officers have caseloads from 65-70 defendants. As of May 8th, there are over 500 defendants in the jail with Electronic Monitoring holds, although not all are expected to be released. With Judges attempting to release defendants to be in compliance with jail reform it is anticipated that the number of defendants will continue to increase.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT:
Electronic Monitoring Officer (Grade FF)
Reporting to the Electronic Monitoring Program Manager, the Electronic Monitoring Officer will be responsible for supervising approximately 30 defendants who have been released with a GPS monitor.

The requested officers will also interview defendants while in the jail to determine if the defendant is appropriate for the program. The officer will be responsible for making contact with any complaining witnesses and gathering all information to create “safety zones.” The Officer and in some cases the complaining witnesses will be alerted if the defendant enters these areas. The Electronic Monitoring Officers are also responsible for field visits, daily GPS point verification, and courtroom testimony.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Funding for the two ELM Officer positions will be funded from the Emergency Reserve Account (120.9950.9120.0.1003). The estimated cost to fund these two positions until September 30, 2020 is $64,554 and the full-year costs of these positions will be added to the FY2021 Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE:
The County’s Administrative Plan states that Dallas County is operationally a model government entity. The proposed new position is consistent with the Plan’s goal that County services be delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible as it will enable the Pretrial to better serve the public efficiently, effectively and help Dallas County be safe secure and prepared.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Office of Budget and Evaluation recommends that the Commissioners Court approve the two requested Electronic Monitoring Officer positions in the Pretrial Services Department and recommend that Human Resources Civil Service review the requested positions for proper classification.

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MOTION:
On a motion made by TBD, and seconded by TBD, the following order will be voted on by the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, State of Texas:

Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby approve two new Electronic Monitoring Officers (Grade FF) positions in the Pretrial Services Department and recommends the review by Human Resources/Civil Service of the recommended positions for proper classification.

ATTACHMENTS:
None