



DATE: February 14, 2024
TO: Zach Walker, City Manager
THROUGH: Sam Morris, Chief of Emergency Management
FROM: Christina Heinen, Health & Animal Services Director
SUBJECT: Council Presentation Clarification on Funding for ARCH

The City of Independence Health & Animal Services and Fire Departments greatly appreciated the opportunity to present to the City Council on Monday evening. During the presentation, Council asked if ARCH was requesting approximately \$1,000,000 in funding for the coming year to double the program staffing. Staff answered that we were seeking funding to continue the program and allow for two crews to operate.

Staff would like to clarify that funding is currently available from Fire to continue paying Battalion Chief John Borel and Community Paramedic Matt Heffernan; however, due to Chief Borel's promotion, another community paramedic is needed to fully utilize Health's licensed clinical social workers. With the ending of the Workforce grant, funding for licensed clinical social workers is also needed. Finally, the ARCH team is currently sharing one vehicle. The purchase of an additional vehicle would allow both crews to operate simultaneously.

Therefore, the following funding is requested:

- \$100,000 for the hiring of an additional community paramedic
- \$250,000 to retain the two licensed clinical social workers
- \$65,000 to purchase a second ARCH vehicle.

Staff have pursued multiple grants at the local, County, State, and Federal levels and continue to apply for grants to fund this program; however, at this time, staff believe financial support from the City will be necessary if the program is to continue at current levels past June 2024.