

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ALLOCATE \$276,832.66 IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET FROM THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO THE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (ARCH) PROGRAM. *(Requested by Councilmember Dan Hobart)*

WHEREAS, the City of Independence (“City”) has been awarded \$1,702,478.53 from several collective opioid legal settlements, and;

WHEREAS, the City has received \$276,832.66 in settlement funds as of October 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council further desires to ensure that these funds are utilized in a manner that is consistent with the terms of each settlement, and;

WHEREAS, the Independence City Council has adopted the “City of Independence Action Plan”, and;

WHEREAS, the Action Plan calls on the City to “enhance the Mental Health Co-Responder and the Alternative Response for Community Health (“ARCH”) programs”; and,

WHEREAS, ARCH is a unique and exciting interdepartmental collaboration between Health & Animal Services and the Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, this team is a 911 community response unit that is designed to place community paramedics with clinical social workers in the “margins” of 911 operations, responding to 911 requests alongside and sometimes in place of traditional first responders; and,

WHEREAS, among those served by this program are persons facing substance abuse issues; and,

WHEREAS, funding for the ARCH team's licensed clinical social workers ends in June 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Health and Animal Services Department, along with the Fire Department, has requested \$266,045 to fund the salary and benefit costs for the two licensed clinical social workers; and,

WHEREAS, in October 2023, the City Council requested that the Advisory Board of Health review the approved uses of the opioid settlement funds and make a recommendation to the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in December and chose to form a subcommittee that discussed the options; and,

WHEREAS, the Board then met again on February 1st and approved the subcommittee's recommendation that at least \$250,000 per year be set aside for the ARCH co-responder program over the next two years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Manager is directed to allocate \$276,832.66 in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget from the City of Independence Opioid Settlement Funds to the Alternative Response for Community Health (ARCH) program for the purpose of retaining the two licensed clinical social workers who's grant funding expires on June 30, 2024.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager is directed to actively pursue alternative funding to sustain this program beyond Fiscal year 2024-25.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager shall prioritize the use of non-City funds over Opioid Settlement Funds to operate this program in the event such funding can be identified including, but not limited to, the operation of the ARCH program by entities external to the City of Independence.

PASSED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the City Council  
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager