



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Board Action Report

File #: 18-429, **Version:** 1

Commissioner Worley - Budget/Purchasing - To Accept and Appropriate Additional Grant Funds from the Governor's Crime Commission for the Sheriff's Office Supervised Safe Exchange Program (**Grant Funds - \$55,527; County Match 25% - \$17,352**)

STAFF CONTACT

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BUDGET IMPACT

Appropriate federal pass-through State revenues. Additional County funds - \$17,352.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Child visitation and child custody exchanges are a vital part of maintaining and building relationships between a child and his parents, but they are often a major challenge for domestic violence victims. For these parents, exchanges can be frustrating and even frightening. Visitation exchanges become problematic when the personal differences between the parents are not settled. A domestic violence case makes the visitation exchange difficult to handle, especially when restraining orders are in effect. In 2016, the Sheriff's DV deputies were called for 59 court-ordered child custody exchanges that were DV related. Unsupervised exchanges have the potential to erupt into verbal abuse or even physical violence. In 2017, one unsupervised custody exchange resulted in a domestic violence-related death. This project will provide a designated safe exchange location monitored by surveillance cameras, an emergency call box and oversight by a Sheriff's Deputy in order to maximize safety and minimize the potential for conflict. Exchange referrals will come from judges, the courts, and local attorneys.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request