



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Montrè Freeman, City Manager  
James Avens, Interim Police Chief  
Alicia Steward, Finance Director  
Jon Hawley, Grants Administrator

**Date:** May 24, 2024

**Re:** Consideration - Request to Submit "Spirit of Blue" Application for First Aid Kits

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***BACKGROUND:***

The Elizabeth City Police Department continues to seek grant funding opportunities through outside sources including Federal, State, Local, and private entities for the purpose of enhancing operations and furthering the department's mission of the pursuit of excellence. To that end, we have identified a grant opportunity for potential lifesaving equipment through the Spirit of Blue Foundation.

***ANALYSIS:***

The Spirit of Blue Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, that is "dedicated to the enhancement of officer safety and vitality throughout the law enforcement community." They fulfill this mission in part by providing safety equipment grants to law enforcement. These grants, which may include direct donation of requested equipment, average just under \$5,000 in value.

The ECPD has an urgent need for individual first aid kits for officers. These first aid kits are light, compact, and easily stowed in patrol vehicles or, when needed, worn on officers' tactical gear. Our officers do not have these kits now, and this impairs the immediate treatment of wounded persons during incidents – potentially including themselves. This is a growing concern as incident calls increase, including incidents involving firearms.

The ECPD requests authorization to submit a grant to the foundation. We are still finalizing the exact models and quantities of first aid kits to request, but there will be no cost to the City. If Spirit of Blue does not approve our full request, we will happily accept a partial award, and look to purchase additional kits when funds allow.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, authorize a grant application to the Spirit of Blue Foundation for individual first aid kits for ECPD officers.