



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 19-2061A, **Version:** 1

Subject:

Agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services provided by Environmental Lands Unit Deputies.

Recommended Action:

Approval of the Agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) for law enforcement services provided by the Environmental Lands Unit Deputies.

- Contract provides for two assigned Environmental Land Unit (ELU) deputies to patrol County preserves and parks at a cost of \$308,870.00 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 including personnel, vehicles, operating and training expenses.
- ELU deputies are critical to deter poaching of wildlife and cultural artifacts from County environmental lands and assist park rangers upon reports of suspicious activities.
- Partnership with the PCSO has existed since FY01.

Strategic Plan:

Practice Superior Environmental Stewardship

3.2 Preserve and manage environmental lands, beaches, parks and historical assets

Summary:

The proposed contract provides law enforcement services at environmentally sensitive lands, preserves and waterways, including but not limited to Brooker Creek and Weedon Island Preserves, and the waters in and around Fort De Soto Park and Shell Key Island, which encompass over 15,940 acres. The contract period is October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 unless extended, terminated or modified by both parties.

Background Information:

Since fiscal year (FY) 2001, the first year of the Environmental Lands Unit contract with the County, PCSO deputies have provided excellent security at the preserves, have shown sincere interest and have helped build community support. They have greatly diminished the trespassing, illegal dumping and poaching activity on County park and preserve properties and work very effectively with Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) staff.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding to support this contract in the amount of \$308,870.00 (an increase of 5.68% over FY 19) is not part of the PCR budget but is included in the annual funding provided to the PCSO. Utilities funds \$75,003.67 of this contract for securing their department's portion of the Brooker Creek Preserve. This contract is consistent with the FY20 Adopted Budget for PCR, PCSO, and Utilities.

Staff Member Responsible:

Paul Cozzie, Director, Parks and Conservation Resources

Partners:

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Pinellas County Utilities

Attachments:

Contract for Law Enforcement Services Environmental Lands Unit