



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 20-1912A, Version: 1

Subject:

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

Recommended Action:

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

- This annual contract provides for two assigned ELU deputies to patrol County environmentally sensitive lands, preserves and waterways at a cost of \$309,422.00 per year including personnel, vehicle, operating and training expenses.
- ELU deputies patrol and deter poaching of wildlife and cultural artifacts from county environmental lands, enforce prohibitions such as hunting and assist park rangers upon reports of suspicious activities.
- Partnership with the PCSO has existed since Fiscal Year 2001.
- Funding for this contract is included in the annual funding provided to the PCSO.

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, 2020 through September 30, 2021 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 \$309,422.00 (an increase of 0.18% over FY 20) is not part of the PCR budget but is included in the annual funding provided to the PCSO. Utilities funds \$77,781.00 of this contract for securing their department's portion of the Brooker Creek Preserve. This contract is consistent with the FY21 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

Cost Worksheet