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City of Punta Gorda Plan for Expending Opioid Settlement Funds

The Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments have collaborated on how best to expend the FY 2025 Opioid settlement funds. In an effort to meet the “Core Strategies” set forth as criteria in the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement Schedule A, we would utilize a portion of the funding to provide education to school-based and youth-focused programs. We currently host an annual Public Safety Youth Academy. The Academy is comprised of participants ranging in ages of 10 to 14 years old. The goal of the Academy is to provide the participants knowledge of both police and fire activities and responsibilities. This includes a course on drug recognition and prevention. Members of Drug Free Punta Gorda attend the Academy and provide education on drug and alcohol prevention techniques. Using the Opioid Settlement funding would allow the Police and Fire Departments to cover the cost of the Academy and provide further education on recognizing drug overdoses and administering naloxone. **Core Strategy B.2. “Provide education to school-based and youth-focused programs that discourage or prevent misuse.” Cost: approximately \$5,000.00.**

A portion of the FY 2025 Opioid Settlement fund would be used to purchase a hands free CPR device for the Fire Department. Having access to hands free CPR devices allow first responders to perform many other life saving techniques such as medication administration, securing an airway and more. Accidental overdoses involving opioids is fairly common across the nation and due to the decrease in respiratory drive, a lot of these cases end in cardiac arrest. Having the ability to have a hands free CPR device is like having an extra first responder on scene. **Schedule B, Part Three: Other Strategies. Approximate Cost: \$24,701.00.**

A portion of the FY 2025 Opioid Settlement fund would also be used by the Police Department to purchase brochures and signage for our drug recovery initiative that allows drug abusers to voluntarily turn in their drugs for destruction and be taken to Charlotte Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit for treatment. **Core Strategy G.5. “Funding and training for first responders to participate in pre-arrest diversion programs, post-overdose response teams, or similar strategies that connect at-risk individuals to behavioral health services and supports.” Cost: approximately \$1,600.00.**

A portion of the FY 2025 Opioid Settlement fund would be used for the Bi-Annual Drug Take Back initiative and daily medicine cabinet prescription collections/destruction. This initiative is in partnership with Drug Free Punta Gorda and the DEA. It occurs twice a year and encourages citizens to drop off old prescriptions at the Public Safety Building. The prescriptions are collected and subsequently taken for destruction. These initiatives require someone from the Evidence Unit to be on site to monitor the program due to the high volume of participants and prescriptions. This is in addition Operation Medicine Cabinet which is a daily prescription collection that occurs as a result of citizens bringing old prescriptions to the Public Safety Building during open lobby hours. The medicine must be taken for destruction frequently. It requires an Evidence Collection Unit member and a sworn member to take the prescriptions for destruction. The sworn member is paid overtime. There is also a need to purchase a larger medicine cabinet due to the large amount of prescriptions that are collected during

the take-back initiatives. **Core Strategy G.4. “Funding for community drug disposal programs.” Cost: approximately \$2,800.00**

The remaining portion of the funds would be used to purchase a TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer. This technology would allow officers to scan more than 530 suspected controlled substances in a single, definitive test. Having this device would help officers quickly identify substances that may involve fentanyl enhancing our response to possible overdoses. The device does not require contact with the substance and would greatly improve officer safety by not exposing the officer to the substance. This would help reduce the chance of an officer falling victim to an overdose.

Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement Schedule B.H.13. “Support screening for fentanyl in routine clinical toxicology testing.” Cost: approximately \$20,000.00

Total approximate cost is \$54,101.00