CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
AN ORDINANCE approving a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Joplin Police Department and Ozark Center for the purpose of integrating a social work program within police department.

MEETING DATE
August 5, 2024

ORIGINATING DEPT
Police Department

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill 2024-620, Memorandum of Understanding between Ozark Center and City of Joplin, and Business Associate Agreement.

REVIEWED BY
Dept. Head: Police Chief Richard Pearson; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nicholas Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Ozark Center and the City of Joplin for the purpose of establishing a social work program and collaborative partnership between City of Joplin, Joplin Police Department, and Ozark Center.

BACKGROUND
The Joplin Police Department routinely comes into contact with members of the community dealing with homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and other crisis situations. Currently we have no means to provide for the needs of these individuals, often resulting in their arrest. To combat this problem, the Joplin Police will partner with a variety of local social service providers to offer more options to individuals in crisis and better provide for their needs. The Ozark Center has agreed to assist in this effort by providing three (3) social service workers to the Joplin Police and create a co-responder initiative when needed for specific calls-for-service. This partnership will provide a varied, and robust service for residents in need.

FUNDING SOURCE
Ozark shall be solely responsible for the payment of compensation of Ozark personnel and contractors performing services hereunder and Ozark's personnel and contractors are not entitled to the provision of any City/JPD employee benefits. No City funding required.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends adoption of this Council Bill on first reading.