

Legislator Sayegh requested that Commissioner Servadio speak to the impact of this program.

Commissioner Servadio stated the CRT responds to calls that a road patrol car would likely be responding to as well if a deputy was not already part of the team. She stated often time the CRT is called by officers in the field from all local police agencies.

Legislator Sayegh stated the CRT is working well and mental health is important in law enforcement. She provided an example of recent incidents on the bike path.

Commissioner Servadio stated from the mental health side, the incidents seem to be intensifying given the severity of calls and cases. She stated this is not unique to Putnam County, it is being seen across the Country. She stated a lot of time and effort has gone into identifying people who would benefit from assistance and working toward prevention.

Legislator Sayegh stated she attended the virtual Axon training that went over calls pertaining to people dealing with various issues, one example was a person with schizophrenia and another was a person with autism.

Commissioner Servadio stated those are the calls the CRT is responding to.

Legislator Sayegh stated the response by the CRT increases safety the individual as well as anyone else involved, their families, and other first responders. She stated this is a critical program that she believes needs to continue.

Legislator Ellner stated this program is critical. He questioned what is causing the vacancies.

Sheriff Hess stated they are looking to fill the vacancies, there are two people going to the academy in January and another who just left for another position. He stated retention is a constant issue. He stated this is a great program and he believes it would have been beneficial to fund the deputy position from the beginning. He stated the mental health worker is being funded through the grant but the deputy is not.

Legislator Ellner stated he would be in favor of funding additional personnel to alleviate this issue and allow the program to continue.

Chairman Jonke requested that the Sheriff determine what the fiscal impact is of this program, taking into account overtime necessary to cover another road patrol deputy. He stated from the Legislature's standpoint, it is hard to say no to public safety.

Legislator Ellner questioned if there is anything else to be addressed other than funding to continue the success of the program.

Sheriff Hess stated not at the moment but will be continuing to look into the program.

Commissioner Servadio stated she would like to provide an update on the Domestic Violence Grant. She stated they received a \$564,000 Crisis Intervention Programming Grant that was awarded in the second quarter of 2025 for the purposes of creating a LAP (Lethality Assessment Protocol) line for Putnam County, attorney stipends, an overtime stipend for the clinician to respond to domestic violence calls, and funds for the Sheriff's Office related to their response to domestic violence calls and for training and backfill. She stated the grant is currently falling under the oversight of one (1) person, however she believes it would make more sense for each department to be directly involved with their portion of the grant. She stated she will work on establishing budget lines for the grant award.

Item #4 – Approval – Budgetary Amendment 25A110 – Sheriff – Utilize Seized Asset Funds to Purchase Personnel Transport Van

Sheriff Hess stated they are looking to utilize Federal seized asset funds to purchase a 12-passenger transport van to consolidate transportation of personnel.

Legislator Ellner questioned if Federal seized asset funds can be used toward the leasing program the County has in place.

Commissioner of Finance Carlin stated it probably could be used for that, but he does not believe this vehicle is being leased.

Sheriff Hess stated the vehicle will be upfitted for police use.

Senior Deputy County Attorney Heather Abissi stated asset forfeiture funds can be used for any law enforcement purpose.

Sheriff Hess stated he will look into leasing versus purchasing the vehicle.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Item #5 – Approval – Fund Transfer 25T358 – Sheriff – Corrections – 6 Air Protection Systems for Officers

Sheriff Hess stated this will allow the Sheriff's Office to purchase six (6) hoods for the officers to use in case of a fire in the correctional facility.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the inmates would be escorted out six (6) at a time.

Sheriff Hess stated that is correct, they would make multiple trips. He stated there are six (6) officers working at a time, therefore they would need to escort the inmates out in an orderly fashion.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Item #6 – Approval – Fund Transfer 25T363 – Sheriff – Corrections – Bullet Proof Vests

Sheriff Hess stated four (4) vests are being purchased, half of which will be covered through grant funds. He stated the vests have a lifespan of five (5) years.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Item #7 – Approval – Fund Transfer 25T365 – Sheriff – Corrections – Safety/Restraint Chair

Sheriff Hess stated the existing safety/restraint chair is out of service because it is too old and is no longer usable.

Chairman Jonke made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Item #8 – FYI – Fund Transfer 25T386 – Emergency Services – 3rd & 4th Quarter Chargebacks

Ralph Falloon, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services stated Westchester County had a surplus vehicle that the Bureau of Emergency Services purchased for \$1.00. He stated the outfitting of the vehicle was not budgeted for because they were not expecting this deal.

Item #9 – FYI – Fund Transfer 25T391 – Probation – Ammunition – Duly Noted

Item #10 – FYI – 3rd Quarter Coroner Cases

Legislator Montgomery apologized for being late and stated she was listening to the meeting on her way so she heard the first item pertaining to the CRT. She stated this report shows there were four (4) suicides this year, which speaks to the importance of this team and its impact on Putnam County. She stated she just lost a brother to suicide that may have been prevented if the proper resources were in place. She stated this is a critical program. She stated she is in favor of increasing road patrol personnel.

Brett Yarris, resident of Carmel, stated beyond the tragic numbers of suicides, the attempted suicides must also be accounted for. He stated the mental health crisis in this country is a real thing. He stated it is important to make this a priority across the board.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if this program is going to continue as she received notification today that the employee in the Sheriff's Office overseeing this program with the Department of Social Services is no longer with the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Hess stated although there are executive changes in the staff, the program will continue.

Commissioner Servadio stated she will speak with Sheriff Hess about the leadership of the CRT within the Sheriff's Department.

Item #11 – Other Business – None

Item #12 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:34pm Chairman Jonke made a motion to adjourn, Seconded by Legislator Birmingham. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Beth Robinson.