



FY 2018 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 23

BUDGET QUESTION: What's being done to proactively combat the heroin epidemic?

RESPONSE: In 2015, Crime Analyst S. Ridings began tracking the number of heroin overdoses occurring in the county. In 2015 Spotsylvania had 34 overdoses and of those 9 were fatalities. In 2016 Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office responded to 81 heroin overdoses with 24 of those resulting in fatalities. At the beginning of 2016, Analyst Ridings began tracking the number of overdoses associated with prescription narcotics. During the year of 2016, the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office responded to 20 related calls and of those 3 were fatalities. As of February 22, 2017, the Sheriff's Office has responded to 19 heroin related overdoses. There have been no fatalities as of yet.

In the later part of 2016, the Sheriff's Office put on an event at Dominion Raceway called Hero's Against Heroin which results in approximately 4500 people arriving at the event. We have begun a proactive approach to community education and partnering with other agencies. Several meetings have been attended with groups such as FAHASS (Fredericksburg Area HIV/Aids Support Services), Failsafe-Era and the re-entry counsel for Planning District 16.

The Sheriff's Office has several events coming up in the near future to educate the public on the heroin epidemic and how it's affecting our County. The events will be at Chancellor School, the Marshall Center and Hard Times Café. The events will focus on education and resources that are provided in the community. There will be a strong focus on statistics, methods of use, narcotics and paraphernalia associated with the use of heroin and other opiate based narcotics.

Within the past four months the Sheriff's Office has trained each patrol Deputy on the use of Narcan, which is a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially in an overdose. Each Patrol Deputy is carrying Narcan while on patrol. Deputies with the Sheriff's Office have deployed Narcan approximately 6 times on persons having an opiate overdose potentially saving their lives.

The Sheriff has implemented a plan where a detective assigned to the Narcotics Division will be called out to all heroin/opiate related overdoses for the purpose of Intel gathering and potentially identifying parties involved in the distribution of heroin in our community.