TO: Mayor and City Council
SUBJECT: 2020 Exploited and Missing Child Unit Memorandum of Understanding
INITIATED BY: Wichita Police Department
AGENDA: Consent

**Recommendation:** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and authorize the necessary signatures.

**Background:** The Wichita Police Department (WPD), Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office and Department for Children and Families (DCF) Wichita Regional Service Center have jointly operated an Exploited and Missing Child Unit (EMCU) since 1985. The mission of the unit is to investigate cases of missing and/or abused children, identify offenders and collect evidence for the prosecution of violators while striving to minimize trauma to child victims. The DCF Wichita Regional Service Center assigns two supervisors, 10 social workers and two human service assistants; WPD assigns one lieutenant, one sergeant, 16 detectives, one grant-funded detective, and two police officers; and the Sheriff’s Office assigns one sergeant, four detectives, one grant-funded detective, and two clerical positions to staff EMCU. The WPD, Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office and DCF each fund the wages for their respective positions; operating expenditures are financed one-third by each entity. EMCU operations are based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the three participating entities.

**Analysis:** EMCU has successfully operated since 1985. EMCU has a proven track record for helping children and their caregivers in our community. EMCU is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary investigative section with a goal to minimize secondary trauma to child victims. Over the past five years, EMCU has averaged 635 child sex crime investigations, 856 child abuse/endangerment investigations, 66 outside requests for assistance, 1,877 runaway investigations, 1,813 DCF intakes, and 57 Child in Need of Care petitions annually. EMCU works in partnership with the Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County to provide therapy for victims and their families, including advocacy during the court process. This specialized unit assists all law enforcement agencies in Sedgwick County, as well as other agencies throughout the state of Kansas.

**Financial Considerations:** The proposed agreement does not increase the Police Department’s budgeted one-third allocation of $47,163. The EMCU operational budget is managed by Sedgwick County, which is reimbursed by the Police Department through a cooperative agreement.

**Legal Considerations:** The Law Department has reviewed and approved the MOU as to form.

**Recommendations/Actions:** It is recommended that the City Council approve the MOU and authorize the necessary signatures.

**Attachment:** Exploited and Missing Child Unit MOU.