

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

56362

Agenda Number

23.

Meeting Date:

April 21, 2016

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an 18-month contract with SORENSON FORENSICS, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request for Proposal EAD0125, for the Austin Police Department's sexual assault backlog elimination program for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,180,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$1,180,000 is available in the Austin Police Department's Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Program Grant.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing
Language:

Best evaluated proposal received.

Prior Council
Action:For More
Information:

Erin D'Vincent, Senior Buyer Specialist, 512-974-3070

Boards and
Commission
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods and services required for this solicitation, there were insufficient subcontracting opportunities and insufficient number of certified M/WBEs; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Additional Backup Information

The contract will provide services of an outside laboratory to analyze the backlog of the Austin Police Department's (APD) sexual assault cases for the presence of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). Those eligible DNA profiles will be entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database in order to assist investigators in solving crimes.

APD was selected as an awardee of the 2015 Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Grant Program by the Office of the District Attorney, New York. The two-year award will help test an estimated 2,000 sexual assault kits which will generate DNA evidence that may help solve cases across the country.

This program will complete the testing of backlogged sexual assault kits that the APD in-house laboratory has not been able to process. Sorenson Forensics will provide the initial analysis of the kit and APD will enter the results into the CODIS database. The CODIS database uses DNA profiles from offenders, arrestees, and crime scenes to generate investigative leads.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the responses and scored Sorenson Forensics as the most qualified to provide these services based upon demonstrated applicable experience including personnel qualifications, schedule to process all 2,000 kits within grantor timeframe, work plan and approach, total evaluated price, and local business presence.

This request allows for the development of a contract with a qualified offeror that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory contract with the selected offeror, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so Council may select another qualified offeror and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

A complete solicitation package, including a response list, is on file in the City's Purchasing Office and is available on the City's Financial Services Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents](#)

The grant currently expires September 30, 2017 so a delay in approving or failure to approve this contract will result in APD not being able to meet the terms of the grant. Performing these services are essential in assisting law enforcement in identifying unknown suspects, linking DNA profiles between crime scenes, and eliminating suspects in sexual assault cases.

MBE/WBE solicited: 0/2

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. 23 notices were sent including two WBEs. There are no known MBEs for this commodity code. Four responses were received with no response from the WBEs. Multiple notices may be sent to the same vendor, e.g. one vendor may have multiple email addresses/fax numbers.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Best evaluated proposal.
- b. The Purchasing Office recommends contract award consistent with the evaluation committee.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American Statesman and on the internet.