



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1539, **Agenda Item #:** 30.

4/25/2019

Posting Language

Authorize an amendment to an existing contract with Signature Science LLC, for continued forensic analysis of biological evidence, for an increase in the amount of \$3,780,000 and to extend the term by up to five years, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$5,780,000.

(Note: This contract is exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$720,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Contract Amendment.

Prior Council Action:

February 16, 2017 - Council approved the original contract, item 27, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Bridney Stewart, at 512-974-3127 or Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The proposed amendment will allow for continued forensic analysis of biological evidence for cases of the Austin Police Department (APD) including forensic serology, screening, and/or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis.

This contract is necessary due to the APD shut down of the DNA services unit. The interim solution for DNA services is being provided by the Department of Public Safety which is operated by Capital Area Laboratory (CAP Lab). CAP Lab does not have the capacity to meet the growing casework demands of the City. The outsourcing of DNA services is necessary to do the following:

- Provide timely response to DNA analysis requests which exceed the current capacity of the CAP Lab;
- Prevent accumulation of DNA backlogs;

- Reduce risk to chain of custody and integrity of evidence during transfer;
- Maintain compliance with applicable laws to ensure that sexual assault kits (SAKs) are submitted within 30 days to accredited laboratories with the capacity to analyze them in a reasonable timeframe;
- Avail the City and its residents access to local rush DNA services to address acute public safety events;
- Provide local expert consultation to investigators and Case Management Unit, and;
- Provide local, Texas-licensed DNA analysts for affordable and efficient trial preparation and expert testimony.

The current contract expires August 31, 2019, however, if the funding does not continue, the program will be unable to continue and APD risks recreating SAK backlogs. If this amendment is not approved, the City will need to potentially extend the schedule for DNA analyses resulting in a potential lapse in service and risk undermining significant efforts the City has made to eliminate and prevent SAK backlog after the current contract expires.

Contract Detail:

<u>Contract Term</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>	<u>Current Contract Authorization</u>	<u>Requested Additional Authorization</u>	<u>Revised Total Authorization</u>
Initial Term	2.5 yrs.	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
Proposed Amendment	5 yrs.		\$3,780,000	\$3,780,000
TOTALS	7.5 yrs.	\$2,000,000	\$3,780,000	\$5,780,000

Note: Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage.