



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 20-2701, **Agenda Item #:** 67.

8/27/2020

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Waters Technologies Corporation, for the purchase of an ultra-performance liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer, in an amount not to exceed \$214,582.

(Note: Sole source contracts are exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9D 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 is available in a grant from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division project entitled Crime Lab Enhancement for the project period January 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Sole Source.

### **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) <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Bridney Stewart, at 512-974-3127 or [Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov](mailto:Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:Bridney.Stewart@austintexas.gov>>.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The contract is for the one-time purchase of an ultra-performance liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer (UPLC-MS). This instrument is used by the Austin Police Department's (APD) Forensic Science Bureau for chemical analysis in the identification of unknown substances to detect the presence of illicit drugs or controlled substances.

APD purchased a UPLC-MS instrument in 2011 and the City needs an additional instrument to meet increasing demands and provide analytical redundancy should the existing instrument experience a lapse in service.

The UPLC-MS instrument will be used by Texas Forensic Science Commission Licensed Forensic Chemists within the Forensic Science Bureau. The current existing UPLC-MS is nearly 10 years old. The new UPLC-MS will eventually replace the existing UPLC-MS and will also be used to support backlog reduction (currently at

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~400 cases), process sample matrices that would not otherwise be possible with the gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer instruments in the laboratory (e.g., sticky compounds), and rapidly identify lethal emerging compounds, such as those associated with clusters of local overdoses.

Waters Technologies Corporation is the sole manufacturer and distributor of the Waters UPLC-MS. This is the only model available in the U.S. capable of providing the full range of analysis required by APD.

If the City is unable to secure a contract, APD's ability to meet the increasing demands for chemical analysis may be severely impacted.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Government that Works for All; Safety.