



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2136, **Agenda Item #:** 78.

7/29/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with Leica Microsystems, Inc., for a comparison microscope and stereoscope, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$93,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department.

Purchasing Language:

Multiple cooperative purchase programs were reviewed for these goods. The Purchasing Office has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the departments to provide the goods required at the best value for the City.

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 John Hilbun, at 512-974-1054 or john.hilbun@austintexas.gov <<mailto:john.hilbun@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of a FS C comparison microscope and a S9D stereoscope for the Forensic Science Department's Firearm and Toolmark Section. The Forensic Science Department Firearm and Toolmark Section is currently equipped with three Leica FS C Comparison Microscopes and three Leica Stereoscopes. The comparison microscope is used to compare microscopic markings on three items (bullets, cartridge cases, and toolmarks) to determine if they originated from the same source. The stereoscope is used for preliminary examination of an item of evidence to determine class characteristics and suitability for entry into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

In August 2020, the Austin Police Department Firearm and Toolmark Section hired a fourth Firearm and Toolmark Examiner. Four employees sharing three macroscopes has led to severe bottlenecking in casework and an increase in both comparison casework and NIBIN backlog. The requested fourth comparison microscope and stereoscope will ease the bottleneck, allowing the section to operate efficiently and at full capacity.

The Texas Multiple Award Schedule cooperative purchase program establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

Failure to provide the Firearm Examiners with dedicated, best-practice microscopic equipment negatively impacts delivery of rapid evidence-based investigative lead reports involving gun-related crimes in Austin.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.