



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3030, **Agenda Item #:** 31.

9/29/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with Government Scientific Source, Inc. for an ELISA liquid handling system, in an amount not to exceed \$148,244.

(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

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improve Act Crime Lab Enhancement grant program of Austin Police Department.

Purchasing Language:

Multiple cooperative purchase programs were reviewed for these goods. The Financial Services Department has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the department to provide the goods required at the best value for the City.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to John Hilbun, at 512-974-1054 or john.hilbun@austintexas.gov [<mailto:john.hilbun@austintexas.gov>](mailto:john.hilbun@austintexas.gov).

Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of an automated liquid handling system capable of performing enzyme-linked immunoassays (ELISA) on biological fluids for the Forensic Science Bureau's (FSB) Toxicology Unit. These instruments are widely used in the toxicology community to rapidly screen for the presence of controlled or illicit substances in blood samples. Specifically, these samples are part of intoxication-related investigations such as driving while intoxicated, intoxication assault, drug-assisted sexual assault, intoxication manslaughter, and others. The FSB Toxicology Unit is currently limited to performing only blood alcohol analysis of these samples. The FSB Toxicology Unit must outsource the drug screen analysis component of the testing, which can delay results by over a year. Bringing immunoassay screening into the FSB Toxicology Unit would significantly decrease turnaround time.

This is a new contract.

The GSA Advantage cooperative 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 federal government's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

If the City is unable to secure a contract, the FSB Toxicology Unit will continue to not have the ability to use immunoassays to screen for illicit substances in blood, thus significantly delaying investigations and it may result in the City losing grant funding to purchase the equipment.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.