

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/08/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0299

LOG NAME: 35FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATED BALLISTICS ID SYSTEM

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Sole Source Agreement with Forensic Technology, Inc. for an Integrated Ballistic Identification System in the Amount of \$147,494.00 for the Police Department with Four One-Year Renewal Options

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize execution of a Sole Source Agreement with Forensic Technology, Inc. for an Integrated Ballistic Identification System in the amount of \$147,494.00 for the Police Department with four one-year renewal options.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize execution of a Sole Source Agreement to purchase a new Forensic Technology, Inc. BrassTrax™ Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS®) for the Police Department Forensic Analysis Laboratory (Crime Lab).

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) established the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) as a database of ballistic intelligence that helps link firearm crimes nationwide. The Forensic Technology IBIS® is the only ballistic identification technology compatible with the ATF NIBIN.

The Crime Lab will enter photographs of firearms cartridge cases to help identify firearms used in criminal cases. IBIS® enables forensic scientists to use 3D microscopy to capture unique markings left by firearms on fired bullets and cartridge cases. IBIS® then generates the most likely matches in the database representing millions of bullets and cartridge cases. These matches provide investigative leads and allow law enforcement agencies to collaborate across local, regional, and national networks.

The Crime Lab currently uses a Forensic Technology BrassTrax IBIS® that is owned by ATF and connects directly with NIBIN. Other entities in Tarrant County do not have the ability to contribute to the database to make leads or links in solving gun-related crimes. The purchase of this new BrassTrax™ IBIS® will establish a regional NIBIN hub centrally located, expanding ballistic intelligence resources to other entities in Tarrant County, adding Johnson and Parker Counties, that do not have direct access to NIBIN. The new BrassTrax™ IBIS® will enable collaborative efforts to bridge cross-jurisdictional gaps to enhance comprehensive violent gun crime strategies among municipalities and jurisdictions.

Forensic Technology, Inc. is the documented sole source for the IBIS® patented technology and is the only system approved by ATF for integration with NIBIN. IBIS® meets ATF security standards and ATF will provide secure communication lines for the Crime Lab's new BrassTrax™ system.

The BrassTrax™ system will have a one-year warranty. Future costs for the BrassTrax™ system warranty will be approximately \$18,494.00 annually and will be included in the Police Department – Crime Lab operating budget. Funding is budgeted in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the Police Department for the purpose of funding the FY25 DOJ-State Jag Program project, as appropriated.

DVIN-BE: This project was approved for a waiver per the Chapter 252 exemption, as a sole source by the Legal Department. Therefore, the business equity goal requirement is not applicable.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER: An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

AGREEMENT TERM: Upon City Council's approval, the term of the Agreement will become effective upon City Secretary Contract execution and expire twelve (12) months after.

RENEWAL OPTIONS: The Agreement may be renewed for up to four (4) one-year renewal terms, at the City's option. Renewals may be used for support maintenance after warranty expiration, equipment repair or replacement. This action does not require specific City Council approval provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal period.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the FY25 DOJ-State Jag Program project to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the agreement. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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