

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 02/24/26

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 26-0130

**LOG NAME:** 35QIAGEN LLC EZ2 CONNECT FX CRIME LAB SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Sole Source Agreement with Qiagen LLC in the Amount of \$83,106.15 for a Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx Instrument for Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Extraction for a Total Annual Authorization in the Amount Up to \$183,106.15 for the Police Department

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council authorize execution of a sole source agreement with Qiagen LLC in the amount of \$83,106.15 for a Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx Instrument for Deoxyribonucleic Acid Extraction for a total annual authorization in the amount up to \$183,106.15 for the Police Department.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to request authorization for the Police Department Forensics Analysis Laboratory (Crime Lab) to execute a sole source purchase agreement with Qiagen LLC for a Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx robotic Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) extraction instrument in the amount of \$83,106.15 to replace an existing Life Technologies Automate Express Robotic DNA extraction instrument.

The Crime Lab currently uses Qiagen EZ1 instruments for robotic DNA extraction. The Qiagen EZ1 instruments are the predecessors to the Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx. The Crime Lab also uses a Life Technologies AutoMate Express Robotic DNA extraction instrument that was purchased in 2011.

All Crime Lab instruments must be validated for any casework performed to comply with forensic standards. Validation requires significant time and effort from multiple forensic analysts and takes time away from casework. The Qiagen EZ1 instruments are fully validated for both differential and non-differential DNA extractions. The Life Technologies AutoMate Express is only validated for non-differential DNA extractions.

Maintaining two separate platforms for Qiagen EZ1 and for Life Technologies AutoMate Express does not provide additional capability, but does increase costs due to separate consumables, service contracts, training requirements, and ongoing validation. Replacing the Life Technologies AutoMate Express with the Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx will allow the Crime Lab to remain in the Qiagen platform, build upon existing validated Qiagen EZ1 workflows, and avoid duplicating validation work.

Qiagen LLC is the demonstrated sole source manufacturer of the Qiagen EZ2 Connect Fx robotic DNA extraction instrument.

City Secretary Contract (CSC) No. 59569 with Qiagen LLC was executed June 6, 2023, for maintenance and repair of Crime Lab Qiagen AIAcubes, EZ1s, and QIAgility in the amount up to \$50,000.00 annually.

CSC No. 60286 was executed October 16, 2023, for Qiagen consumable supplies used with Crime Lab Qiagen instruments in an amount up to \$50,000.00 annually.

This M&C requests total annual authorization with Qiagen LLC in an amount up to \$183,106.15 to include CSC 59569 for maintenance and repair services and CSC 60286 for Qiagen consumable supplies.

Funding is budgeted within the CCPD Capital Projects Fund for the purpose of funding the FY26 PD Forensic Equipment Replacement project for the Police Department.

**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 TERMS:** Upon City Council approval, this agreement shall begin upon execution and expire one year from that date.

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the CCPD Capital Projects Fund for the FY26 PD Forensic Equipment Rep 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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