



**CITY OF FORT WORTH
CHAPTER 252 EXEMPTION FORM**

Instructions: Fill out the entire form with detailed information. Once you have completed this form, provide it to the Purchasing attorneys for review. The attorneys will review the information you have provided to determine whether an exemption to Chapter 252's bidding requirements is defensible. Failure to provide sufficient information may result in follow up questions and cause a delay in the attorney's determination.

Section 1: General Information

Requesting Department: Police Department

Name of Contract Manager: Loraine Coleman

Departmental Attorney: Jerris Mapes, Amarna Muhammad, Hye Won Kim

Item or Service sought: Leeds Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison
Microscope (LCF3)

Goods:

Service:

Anticipated Amount: \$100,392.00

Vendor: Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc.

Current/Prior Agreement for item/service: Yes No

CSC or Purchase Order #: CSC 56123 Microscope maintenance and CSC
59825 Camera

Amount: Microscope maintenance \$5,220.00 and Camera
\$10,000.00

Projected M&C Date: March 2025

How will this item or service be used? The Police Department Forensics Analysis Laboratory (Crime Lab) will seek approval to purchase a new Leeds Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison Microscope LCF3. The microscope will replace a Leica FS C microscope that was purchased in 2005. The Leica motorized system is obsolete and parts for repair are not readily available.

Has your department started a requisition or otherwise contacted the Purchasing Division related to obtaining this good/service? Yes No

If yes, please provide requisition number or brief explanation of contact with Purchasing Division: N/A

Section 2: Claimed Exemption and Justification (Other than sole source)

NOTE: For sole-source exemption requests, complete Section 3.

Please indicate the non-sole-source exemption you believe applies to the purchase and provide information to support its applicability. Please refer to the Exemption Primer (starting on page 5) for detailed information about common exemptions:

- A procurement necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the City of Fort Worth’s residents;
- A procurement necessary because of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment, or other property;
- A procurement for personal, professional, or planning services;
- A procurement for work that is performed and paid for by the day as the work progresses;
- A purchase of land or a right-of-way;
- Paving drainage, street widening, and other public improvements, or related matters, if at least one-third of the cost is to be paid by or through special assessments levied on property that will benefit from the improvements;
- A public improvement project, already in progress, authorized by the voters of the municipality, for which there is a deficiency of funds for completing the project in accordance with the plans and purposes authorized by the voters;
- A payment under a contract by which a developer participates in the construction of a public improvement as provided by Subchapter C, Chapter 212;
- Personal property sold:
 - at an auction by a state licensed auctioneer;
 - at a going out of business sale held in compliance with Subchapter F, Chapter 17, Business & Commerce Code;
 - by a political subdivision of this state, a state agency of this state, or an entity of the federal government; or

- under an interlocal contract for cooperative purchasing administered by a regional planning commission established under Chapter 391;

- Services performed by blind or severely disabled persons;
- Goods purchased by a municipality for subsequent retail sale by the municipality;
- Electricity; or
- Advertising, other than legal notices.

Please provide details and facts to explain why you believe the exemption applies to the purchase. You may also attach documentation to this form. [INSERT DETAILED EXPLANATION AS TO HOW/WHY CLAIMED EXCEPTION APPLIES TO THIS PURCHASE]

Section 3: Claimed Sole-Source Exemption and Justification

NOTE: For all non-sole-source exemption requests, complete Section 2.

Please indicate the sole-source exemption you believe applies to the purchase and provide information to support its applicability. Please refer to the Exemption Primer (starting on page 5) for detailed information about common exemptions:

- items that are available from only one source because of patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies;
- films, manuscripts, or books;
- gas, water, and other utility services;
- captive replacement parts or components for equipment;
- books, papers, and other library materials for a public library that are available only from the persons holding exclusive distribution rights to the materials; and
- management services provided by a nonprofit organization to a municipal museum, park, zoo, or other facility to which the organization has provided significant financial or other benefits;

How did you determine that the item or service is only available from one source?

Firearms and tool marks comparison microscopes with motorized moving stages and parts require costly service agreements to maintain. The Crime Lab has one Leica FS C comparison microscope that was purchased in 2005, but has been inoperable since 2010 due to extensive repair costs. The Crime Lab has other Leeds manual comparison microscopes with no motorized moving stages or parts that require expensive maintenance. Motorized functions limit the ability of the forensic scientist to adjust the image magnification and visuals. Motorized functions require expensive service contracts and may result in significant down time if repairs are not readily available. The Leeds LCF3 will be purchased with manual stage controls, allowing the forensic scientist complete

control of bringing the image into focus. The existing Leeds comparison microscopes have never had any mechanical issues or caused down time for the Crime Lab.

Attach screenshots and provide an explanation of any independent research you conducted, through internet searches, searching cooperatives, or discussions with others knowledgeable on the subject matter that corroborate that the item is available only from a single source.

Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. is the sole manufacturer and distributor of the Leeds LCF3 Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison Microscope. Leeds has a cooperative purchasing agreement through GSA Schedule GS-07F-097CA, which is not available to the City of Fort Worth; Leeds has no other cooperative agreements.

Did you attach a sole source justification letter? Yes No

Describe the uniqueness of the item or service (e.g. compatibility or patent issues, etc.). Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. has an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited service department for magnification calibration and measurement functions including a unique Y-axis mounted digital scale and camera measurements. Evidence presented in the courtroom may be challenged for accuracy, but Leeds provides ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited calibration for magnification and measurements. The Leeds LCF3 uses a single objective with a constant 60mm working distance at all magnifications and has primary magnification range of 6x – 102x, unlike any other comparison microscope. The zoom design has 14 matched magnification positions, the most in the industry; other microscopes only have 11, but typically 6. The Leeds holder is designed to hold and manipulate various size cartridge casing from a 0.030” diameter wire to a 10-gauge shot gun shell and requires no additional holder accessories. Other comparison microscope require various specialized holders. The Leeds LCF3 dividing line controller is adjustable with a single hand allowing the examiner sweep the dividing line from right to left without taking their eyes off the sample under the microscope. Any line width is possible with this controller and images can be viewed at any percentage - left, right or superimposed. The Leeds LCF3 workstation is machined from a single piece of billet aluminum for structural rigidity, allowing for increased image quality from lack of vibrations. The Leeds LCF3 system offers the largest field of view in the industry at 170mm, with a continuous zoom magnification range of 1.08x to 17.28x. The Leeds LCF3 system has a 5-year warranty on mechanical or optical defects; other microscopes have a 1-year warranty.

Section 4: Attorney Determination

With the facts provided by the department, is the use of the claimed exemption defensible if the City were to be challenged on this purchase? Yes No.

Was there anything attached to this form that was relied on in making this determination? Yes No.

If yes, please explain: Sole Source Letter

Was there anything not included on this form or attached hereto that was relied on in making this determination? Yes No.

If yes, please explain: N/A

Approved By:

Andrea Phillips
Andrea Phillips / Jessika Williams
Assistant City Attorney

Date: February 19, 2025



17300 Medina Road, Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55447
Phone: 763-546-8575
Fax: 763-546-4369

February 11, 2025

Fort Worth Police Department
Attn: Paul Slocum
3616 E. Lancaster Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76103

Dear Paul,

Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. "Leeds" is the sole manufacturer, and U.S. distributor of the Leeds' LCF3 Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison Microscope. As its manufacturer and distributor, Leeds provides on-site installation, training, on-going technical support, and warranty service. In addition, Leeds' service department is available after the sale for scheduled maintenance and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited recertification.

The Leeds' LCF3 stands as a specialized and exceptional comparison microscope, distinguished by its distinctive attributes that are absent from any other equipment available in the market. Unique Specifications for Leeds Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison Microscope (LCF3) includes:

1. Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. has an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited service department for calibration, providing certificates of calibration for magnification matching and all measurement functions, including the unique Y-axis mounted digital scale and camera measurements.
2. The LCF3 uniquely uses a single objective with a constant 60mm working distance at all magnifications and has primary magnification range of 6x – 102x. Its zoom design provides 14 matched magnification positions that are parfocal and parcentric. Of these 14 positions, 11 are between the magnifications of 6x – 56x.
3. Leeds Universal holder is uniquely designed to hold and manipulate various size cartridge casings (from a 0.030" diameter wire to a 10-gauge shot gun shell), requires no additional holder accessories, and has non-marring surfaces to prevent damage to evidence.
4. The LCF3 dividing line controller is easily adjusted uniquely with one hand, allowing the examiner to sweep the dividing line from right to left. With this design any line width is possible, and images can be viewed at any percentage left, right or superimposed.
5. The LCF3 has unique stages that can be removed entirely from the system or swung aside. Allowing for extra working area with samples that require a large working space.
6. The LCF3 13-watt quad lamp fluorescent lighting system uses a fluorescent lighting system

offering a versatile rotatable hood that can be adjusted for maximum sample contrast.

7. The LCF3 workstation is machined from a single piece of billet aluminum, providing structural rigidity, which allows for increased image quality by counteracting the disruptive effects of vibrations. The specialized form of this table not only prioritizes ergonomic comfort but also features roll-off edge protection, proficiently curbing the risk of cylindrical samples from rolling off workstations.
8. Leeds is equipped with an extensive assortment of loaner and replacement components, strategically positioned to address emergency service scenarios. Leeds promptly deploys hardware within 24 to 48 hours, effectively minimizing operational disruptions.
9. The LCF3 system offers an optional ultra-wide field objective with the largest field of view in the industry at 170mm. The ultra-wide field objective has a continuous zoom magnification range of 1.08X to 17.28X.

Sincerely,



Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc.
By Terri Barnett
Its President/COO