City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/12/25 **M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 25-0706

LOG NAME: 35ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE SCREENING AND OTHER FORENSIC TESTING

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Amendments to Non-Exclusive Purchase Agreements with DNA Labs International and Signature Science, LLC In the Amount of \$160,692.00 for a New Total Annual Amount of \$1,250,000.00 for Additional Evidence Screening and Deoxyribonucleic Acid Testing for the Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize amendments to non-exclusive purchase agreements with DNA Labs International and Signature Science, LLC in the amount of \$160,692.00 for a new total annual amount of \$1,250,000.00 for additional evidence screening and deoxyribonucleic acid testing for the Police Department

DISCUSSION:

In September 2019, the Lavinia Masters Act went into effect in Texas, mandating that Texas crime labs process sexual assault evidence kits within 90 days of receiving them from law enforcement.

On June 13, 2023, City Council approved Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) 23-0455 for the execution of non-exclusive purchase agreements with DNA Labs International and Signature Science, LLC for additional evidence screening and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) testing in an annual amount up to \$1,089,308.00 with four one-year renewal options. These purchase agreements were executed to help decrease the Police Department Forensic Analysis Laboratory backlog of cases requiring DNA processing and testing.

The Fort Worth Police Department Forensics Analysis Laboratory (Crime Lab) has experienced a 43% increase from 2020 to 2024 in the number of sexual assault kits received for forensic analysis.

Year	Kits
2020	240
2021	238
2022	278
2023	301
2024	344

This M&C is to request an increase of \$160,692.00 in authorization for a new total annual authorization of \$1,250,000.00 for evidence screening and DNA testing on forensic casework for the Crime Lab and authorize amendments to the non-exclusive purchase agreements with DNA Labs International and Signature Science, LLC for additional evidence screening and testing services to comply with the Lavinia Masters Act mandating Texas crime labs process sexual assault kits within 90 days of receipt from law enforcement.

Funding is budgeted in the Consultant & Other Prof Service account within the Crime Control & Prev Distr Fund for the Police Department.

DVIN: This solicitation was reviewed by the Business Equity Division for available business equity prospects according to the City's Business Equity Ordinance. There were limited business equity opportunities available for the services/goods requested, therefore, no business equity goal was established.

AGREEMENT TERM: Upon City Council approval, the agreement amendments shall begin upon execution by Assistant City Manager and expire one year from that date.

RENEWAL OPTIONS: The agreements may be renewed for four (4) additional one-year terms. 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 term.

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.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the Crime Control & Prev Distr Fund to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of agreements. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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