



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 24, 2022

DATE: April 29, 2022
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Justin Norton, Operations Manager, Regional Medical Examiner's Office
(775) 785-6114, jnorton@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner
SUBJECT: Approve expenditures in excess of \$100,000 each to Brooklyn Forensics LLC, ML Forensic Consulting LLC, and Leonardo Roquero MD PLLC for forensic pathology services in both Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office requests that the Board approve expenditures in excess of \$100,000 each to Brooklyn Forensics LLC, ML Forensic Consulting LLC, and Leonardo Roquero MD PLLC for forensic pathology services in both Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

Due to Medical Examiner vacancies and rising autopsy caseload, the Regional Medical Examiner's Office has significantly increased its use of contractual forensic pathologists (locum tenens) to perform needed medical examinations and autopsies to fulfill its statutorily mandated duties. These contractual pathologists (independent contractors) may reside in other states but have Nevada Medical Licenses and are Board Certified in Anatomic and Forensic Pathology. They travel to Washoe County to assist the Regional Medical Examiner's Office in performing the large volume of examinations and autopsies the office handles.

Due to the difficulty of recruiting full-time forensic pathologists, due to a nationwide shortage, the Assistant Medical Examiner and Deputy Chief Medical Examiner positions are anticipated to remain vacant for a significant amount of time, requiring additional

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services from these contractors. It is expected that the expenses for each of these contractors will exceed \$100,000 in both FY22 and FY23.

FISCAL IMPACT

Net zero impact to the county general fund. The fiscal impact cannot be determined as the services needed will be changed based upon the ability of the county to successfully fill the multiple vacant Assistant Medical Examiner and Deputy Chief Medical Examiner positions. Salary savings from these vacant positions will be used to pay for these services, in addition to the office's approved professional services budget line item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve expenditures in excess of \$100,000 each to Brooklyn Forensics LLC, ML Forensic Consulting LLC, and Leonardo Roquero MD PLLC for forensic pathology services in both Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve expenditures in excess of \$100,000 each to Brooklyn Forensics LLC, ML Forensic Consulting LLC, and Leonardo Roquero MD PLLC for forensic pathology services in both Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023."