



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

**DATE:** Thursday May 19, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Greg Herrera, Chief Deputy, Operations Bureau  
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**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the purchase of Cellebrite Premium software and supporting components at the cost of [\$107,825.25] under a sole source purchasing exemption using existing Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant funding. (All Commission Districts)

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### SUMMARY

Universal Forensic Extraction Device (UFED) technology provides digital forensic lab examiners, investigators, and first responders with the capability to collect, protect and act decisively on mobile device data with speed and accuracy. This software will allow maintain sustainable and efficient criminal investigations. The FY 2022-2023 adopted DEM grant award reflects budget authority for expenditures from Cellebrite DI Ltd., a standard software provider for Sheriff's Office technology.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Safe, secure, and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On December 14, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners accepted a Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$132,104.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2021 project number 97067.21, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division Cyber Crimes Unit for the purchase of forensic software and licenses for the retroactive grant term of September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2023, and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam To execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

November 17, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 10.D.3, the Sheriff's Office request to approve a Cyber Security grant award [\$80,072.00, no match required] from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020,

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

Project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to sustain current Cyber Security for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2022.

November 12, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 8.D.1, the Sheriff's Office request to approve a Cyber Security grant award [\$42,035.00, no match required] from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2019, Project number 19-3000, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to sustain current Cyber Security for the retroactive grant term of September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2021.

December 11, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 7.G.10, the Sheriff's Office request to approve a Cyber Security grant award [\$45,060.00, no match required] from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2018, Project number 18-3000, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to sustain current Cyber Security for the retroactive grant term of September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2020.

November 14, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 5.G.4, the Sheriff's Office request to approve a grant award [\$84,000.00, no match required] from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2017, Project number 17-3000, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for Cyber Security for the retroactive grant term of September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2019

October 25, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 7.I.2, the Sheriff's Office recommendation to approve a sub grant award [\$25,375.00, no match required] from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2016, Project number 16-3000, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for Cyber Security for the retroactive grant term of September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2018.

The Board has accepted an annual Cyber Security Grant Program award on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office since 2004.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management has historically funded the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of forensic software and licenses for the Sheriff's Office Cyber Crimes Unit that will enhance the Cyber Unit's ability to investigate cyber security breaches resulting in criminal behavior.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office dedicates personnel to investigate cyber related matters and partners with federal and state law enforcement combining our resources and experience. Cyber events involving security breaches usually evolve into criminal acts. Areas addressed include cyber forensics and cyber intrusion prevention. The majority of funding received will be used to address gaps in cyber defense and increasing the understanding of cyber threats and mitigation actions.

Reason for Sole Source request: The line item for Forensic Software known as Cellebrite Premium is unique due to a following: (This is a partial list of advantages and meant to be representative of some but not all of the justifications for this request)

- **Large, Established User Community.** Since 2007, Cellebrite has deployed more than 40,000 UFEDs in 100+ countries to support law enforcement, intelligence

services, border patrols, military forces, public safety agencies and commercial organizations.

- **Industry’s Broadest Device & App Support.** Cellebrite has established collaborative business relationships with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and wireless carriers worldwide. These global partners send us more than 100 new handsets per month - most prior to actual consumer market release. This allows Cellebrite Mobile Forensics to develop mobile forensics support for new devices prior to our competition. We retain more than 8,000 mobile phones at our company headquarters for ongoing innovation and support.
- **Technology and Research and Development (R&D) Leadership.** Cellebrite provides the mobile forensic industry’s most comprehensive Android, Apple iOS, Blackberry, and Windows Mobile support. Cellebrite has a staff of 250+ engineers—the most of any mobile forensics solution provider. We are committed to investing in the ongoing R&D to innovate around customer and market needs.
- **Best-in Class Training Ensures a Repeatable, Reproducible Mobile Forensics Process.** Open to all user levels, from beginners to advanced, Cellebrite certification training provides hands-on experience with Cellebrite products and applications, delivering the tools and knowledge required for evidence collection data analysis, searching, and reporting.
- **Physical and Full File System Extraction with Lock Bypass.** Cellebrite supports physical extraction while from more than 8,034 different device types, including Android (1000+ devices from Samsung, Huawei, LG, Motorola, and other vendors); Apple iOS; and Windows Phone (Nokia and Lumia). Cellebrite supports more than 8000 devices for full file system extraction including File-based- encryption devices up to the latest Samsung Flagships (S20, S21) and devices running Android 11.
- **Forensically Sound Evidence Every Time.** Unlike competitors’ “black box” third-party boot loaders, UFED uses custom-designed, read-only boot loaders, which ensure forensically sound file system and physical extractions UFED technology includes capabilities that are exclusive to Cellebrite and not available from any other company.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds to pay for network video storage and supporting components will remain within the available FY 2021-2022 budget in the following cost object:

Nevada Division of Emergency Management – I/O 19115	\$107,825.25
Cellebrite Premium:	\$107,825.25
Total Cost:	\$107,825.25

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of Cellebrite Premium software and supporting components at the cost of [\$107,825.25] under a sole source purchasing exemption using existing Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant funding.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the purchase of Cellebrite Premium software and supporting components at the cost of [\$107,825.25] under a sole source purchasing exemption using existing Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant funding."