



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

DATE: Tuesday, November 05, 2019
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kerri Heward, Crime Lab Director
775-321-2851, KHeward@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Cathy Hill, Comptroller
Darin Balaam, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Recommendation to award Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 3108-20 for Forensic DNA Casework Analysis on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Sciences Division to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder, [staff recommends Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc., 10430 Furnace Road Suite 107, Lorton VA 22079 for a cost of \$895.00 per kit for approximately 500 to 1000 kits, estimated total amount between \$447,500.00 up to \$1,000,000.00 (funding permitting)], and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute a two year agreement, for the period of November 13, 2019-November 12, 2021 with the option of two one (1) year extension options, at the discretion of the County. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Award Invitation to Bid #3108-20 for Forensic DNA Casework Analysis on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department Forensic Science Division (WCSO-FSD) to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc in the estimated amount between \$447,500.00 up to \$1,000,000.00 (funding permitting) on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute a two year agreement, for the period of November 13, 2019-November 12, 2021 with the option of two one (1) year extension options, at the discretion of the County.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 8, 2017, the Board approved item #11, a grant from the Attorney General's Office to pay for the salaries of six full time DNA Criminalists, and costs associated with the testing of sexual assault kits collected as a result of the passing of AB97.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On March 28, 2017, the Board approved item # 8, to accept receipt of Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant funds (IO11406) from the Attorney General’s Office to fund outsourcing un-submitted sexual assault kits.

On May 24, 2016, the Board approved item # 18, an Intrastate Contract (IO 20428) between the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office – Forensic Sciences Division and the Attorney General’s Office to test un-submitted sexual assault kits.

On February 23, 2016, the Board awarded item # 11, a RFP for bid of un-submitted sexual assault kit analysis to Sorenson Forensics LLC.

BACKGROUND

Over the last 4 years, the WCSO-FSD has been part of a task force created to address the un-submitted sexual assault kit issue in Nevada. The task force consists of representatives from Nevada’s Attorney General’s Office, Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic Science Laboratories, District Attorney’s Offices, Legislators, Sexual Assault Response Team, Victim Advocate Groups, and Universities. 1131 un-submitted sexual assault kits were identified in northern Nevada. Approximately 90% of these un-submitted sexual assault kits have been tested since their identification and are currently undergoing review by the WCSO-FSD for entry of eligible DNA profiles into the DNA database (CODIS). In addition, the WCSO-FSD currently has approximately 400 sexual assault kits awaiting DNA testing. This has been primarily due to the passing of legislation requiring all sexual assault kit be DNA tested in the state of Nevada (AB97). Therefore, the plan is to utilize Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. to test (1) the remaining un-submitted sexual assault kits, and (2) our current backlog of sexual assault kits. Should funds be available once this project has been completed then a third goal would be to utilize Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. to complete DNA testing on other types cases in the DNA backlog. Outsourcing these cases will allow us to eliminate our backlog of sexual assault kits and meet the 120 day turnaround time requirement of AB97 moving forward. Outsourced data will be reviewed by the WCSO-FSD and the appropriate DNA profiles entered into CODIS.

In accordance with the provisions of NRS 332.039, the Washoe County Purchasing Office solicited bids for Forensic DNA Casework Analysis. The Invitation to Bid was duly advertised in the Reno Gazette-Journal and made available through the online services of www.DemandStar.com resulting in the receipt of three (3) bids. Sealed bids were accepted by the Purchasing Office until 3:00 p.m., September 9th, 2019.

RESPONDING BIDDERS:

Bid Item #1

Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc.
10430 Furnace Road Suite 107
Lorton VA 22079

\$895.00 per kit (including y screening)

DNA Labs International
260 SW Natura Avenue 2nd Floor
Deerfield Beach FL 33441

\$795.00 per kit (*with exceptions)

“Move to award Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 3108-20 for Forensic DNA Casework Analysis on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Forensic Sciences Division to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder, [staff recommends Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc., 10430 Furnace Road Suite 107, Lorton VA 22079 for a cost of \$895.00 per kit for approximately 500 to 1000 kits, estimated total amount between \$447,500.00 up to \$1,000,000.00 (funding permitting)], and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute a two year agreement, for the period of November 13, 2019- November 12, 2021 with the option of two one (1) year extension options, at the discretion of the County.”