



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DATE: Thursday, September 09, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kerri Heward, Director – Forensic Science Division
(775) 328-2803, kheward@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Sheriff Darin Balaam

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the purchase of consumables from ThermoFisher/Life Technologies at an approximate cost not to exceed [\$400,000.00] annually to include single purchases exceeding \$100,000.00 for the retroactive term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for the purchase of consumables for use in the Forensic Science Division DNA section. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division is requesting approval of a purchase of consumables from ThermoFisher/Life Technologies to use in the DNA section. The cost of these consumables is estimated not to exceed \$400,000.00 annually to include single purchases exceeding \$100,000.00. Actual cost not yet determined. WCSO FSD orders consumables as needed throughout the year based on casework and offender samples volume.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On January 12, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved item 17, the sole source exemption and purchase of consumables from Life Technologies.

On July 24, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved item 21, the sole source exemption and purchase of consumables from Life Technologies.

BACKGROUND

ThermoFisher/Life Technologies is the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division current vendor for DNA kits and consumables. ThermoFisher/Life Technologies is the only manufacturer and distributor of these kits, associated chemicals,

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and instrumentation. The WCSO FSD has a validated DNA analysis process utilizing Prepfilier Express extraction kits, QuantifilerTrio Quantification kit, GlobalFiler and YFiler Plus along with the 7500 real-time PCR instrument and 3500 capillary electrophoresis instruments. The instruments were purchased with ThermoFischer/Life Technologies. There is no alternative for consumables using our current validated system for DNA analysis.

With ThermoFisher/Life Technologies, WCSO FSD has government pricing and negotiated volume discount pricing based on our dollar volume usage which is updated annually.

Chemicals and Supplies are for use in the 7500 real-time PCR instrument and 3500 capillary electrophoresis instruments in DNA. Chemicals include: Prepfilier Express Extraction kits, Quantifiler Trio Quantitation kit, GlobalFiler STR kits, YFiler Plus STR kits, POP4, Calibration kits, Matrix standards and LIZ 600.

All DNA casework and offender samples are processed using the above listed chemicals and associated equipment.

Globalfiler is purchased once, maybe twice a fiscal year. Depending on the amount needed, the purchase could potentially be over the \$100,000.00 threshold in a single order therefor needing the Board of County Commissioners prior approval.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available Board of County Commissioners meeting once all paperwork was received and processed.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve the purchase of consumables from ThermoFisher/Life Technologies, the use of existing funds in the approved FY22 budget will be as follows:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
CC – 150650 Crime Lab	710319 – Chemical Supplies	\$150,000.00
CC – 150650 Crime Lab	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 10,000.00
IO – 20003 Genetic Marker Testing	710319 – Chemical Supplies	\$115,000.00
IO – 20003 Genetic Marker Testing	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
IO – 20391 DNA Offender Mandates	710319 – Chemical Supplies	\$115,000.00
IO – 20391 DNA Offender Mandates	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of consumables from ThermoFisher/Life Technologies at an approximate cost not to exceed [\$400,000.00] annually to include single purchases exceeding \$100,000.00 for the retroactive term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for the purchase of consumables for use in the Forensic Science Division DNA section.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the purchase of consumables from ThermoFisher/Life Technologies at an approximate cost not to exceed [\$400,000.00] annually to include single purchases exceeding \$100,000.00 for the retroactive term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for the purchase of consumables for use in the Forensic Science Division DNA section."