



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 9, 2018

DATE: Thursday, October 04, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

THROUGH: Sheriff Chuck Allen

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the purchase of one 3500 XL Genetic Analyzer from ThermoFisher Scientific at a cost of [\$180,476.85] using \$158,340.00 from the 2016 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11362) and \$22,136.85 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division is requesting approval to purchase one 3500 XL Genetic Analyzer from ThermoFisher Scientific at a cost of [\$180,476.85] using \$158,340.00 from the 2016 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11362) and \$22,136.85 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption.

The \$180,476.85 price not only includes the instrument but also a one year service contract that will be initiated after the 1 year warranty has expired.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Board approved a similar purchase for the Sheriff's Forensic Science Division on May 8, 2018.

BACKGROUND

The WCSO Forensic Science Division currently has two 3130 genetic analyzers and one 3500 XL for use in the processing of criminal cases and offender samples for DNA. Both 3130 genetic analyzers are over 10 years old and will no longer be supported by the manufacturer in the next few years. Therefore, we would like purchase one 3500 XL to

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replace two 3130 genetic analyzers. The 3500 XL genetic analyzer is the newer model of 3130 and can inject 24 samples at a time. Our current 3130 instruments can inject 4 samples at a time. Therefore, the 3500 XL will significantly improve the efficiency of the DNA analysis process for both casework and offender samples.

Genetic Analyzers are available from other manufacturers; however only the analyzers produced by ThermoFisher Scientific are compatible with existing equipment and software used in the WCSO Forensic Science Division. ThermoFisher Scientific does have authorized dealers/re-sellers for this equipment and software making the purchase a sole source directly from ThermoFisher Scientific.

FISCAL IMPACT

The 3500 XL genetic analyzer will be purchased using \$158,340.00 from the 2016 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11362) and \$22,136.85 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391). This pricing includes the trade in value for two currently used 3130 genetic analyzers. The \$180,476.85 price not only includes the instrument but also a one year service contract that will be initiated after the 1 year warranty has expired.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of one 3500 XL Genetic Analyzer from ThermoFisher Scientific at a cost of [\$180,476.85] using \$158,340.00 from the 2016 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11362) and \$22,136.85 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to approve the purchase of one 3500 XL Genetic Analyzer from ThermoFisher Scientific at a cost of [\$180,476.85] using \$158,340.00 from the 2016 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11362) and \$22,136.85 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption.