



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 12, 2019

DATE: Wednesday, February 06, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kerri Heward, Crime Lab Director
775-321-2851, KHeward@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Darin Balaam, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a direct grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY18 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement (FSI) Project No 2018-CD-BX-0072 for [\$150,000.00, no county match required] for the Crime Lab Firearms Backlog Program and to approve the sole source agreement and establish a professional services contract [exceeds \$100,000.00] with Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. is an accredited private Forensic Laboratory who will provide a team of firearms examiners to assist with firearms casework backlog reduction for the retroactive grant period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019; and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to retroactively execute grant award documentation, direct Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget amendments, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the contract agreement.(All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division (WCSO-FSD) has received a direct grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY18 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$150,000.00. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division will utilize these funds to contract with an accredited private Forensic Laboratory to provide a team of firearms examiners to assist with firearms casework backlog reduction.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

Prior Paul Coverdell FSI awards annually since 2008 have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The Firearms Section provides firearms examinations and comparisons for over 86 agencies in the 13 northern and central counties of Nevada and one county in central California. The Firearm Section is staffed by one fully trained Firearms Examiner, one Firearms Examiner in training, two part-time IBIS technicians who are responsible for Firearms Database entries, and a Supervisor. This very limited staff serves all agencies and the citizens of thirteen of Nevada's seventeen counties plus one central California County. The Firearms section received 477 cases in FY 17/18, completed 315 cases and the current backlog of cases is 638 cases. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division will utilize these funds to contract with an accredited private Forensic Laboratory to provide a team of firearms examiners to assist with firearms casework backlog reduction. The WCSO-FSD reallocated internal resources to provide a second Firearms Examiner who will complete the two year training program by summer of 2019. This second Firearms Examiner will provide the additional resources necessary to manage the future incoming caseload. Ongoing assistance from Ron Smith and Associates will not be needed. Additionally the WCSO-FSD has reallocated additional internal resources to provide assistance with Firearms Database entries. Two individuals are currently in a training program and will be contributing to backlog reduction soon. Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once all paperwork was received and processed.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Improving the Timeliness of Forensic Science Services in the Firearms Section.

Scope of the Project: Funding for costs associated with reducing the backlog of firearms casework.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Increased capability to test pending firearms casework

On-Going Program Support: N/A

Award Amount: \$150,000.00

Grant Period: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

Funding Source: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Pass Through Entity: National Institute of Justice

CFDA Number: 16.742

Grant ID Number: 2018-CD-BX-0072

Match Amount and Type: No Match.

Sub-Awards and Contracts: Any equipment will be purchased using Washoe County grant procurement processes compliant with 2 CFR 200.317-200.326. Professional services and/or Independent Contract Agreement will be approved by Purchasing within Washoe County grant procurement processes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the adopted FY19 budget will be increased by \$150,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

INCREASE REVENUES:

11517 - 431100 (2017 DNA Backlog Reduction - Federal Grants)	\$150,000.00
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INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

11517 – 710200 (2017 DNA Backlog Reduction – Contract Svcs)	\$150,000.00
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- No Match
- Reimbursement
 - Upfront cash from General funds
- Sponsor does not allow for indirect cost recovery

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a direct grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY18 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement (FSI) Project No 2018-CD-BX-0072 for [\$150,000.00, no county match required] for the Crime Lab Firearms Backlog Program and to approve the sole source agreement and establish a professional services contract [exceeds \$100,000.00] with Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. is an accredited private Forensic Laboratory who will provide a team of firearms examiners to assist with firearms casework backlog reduction for the retroactive grant period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019; and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to retroactively execute grant award documentation, direct Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget amendments, and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the contract agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a direct grant award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) FY18 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement (FSI) Project No 2018-CD-BX-0072 for [\$150,000.00, no county match required] for the Crime Lab Firearms Backlog Program and to approve the sole source agreement and establish a professional services contract [exceeds \$100,000.00] with Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. Ron Smith and Associates, Inc. is an accredited private Forensic Laboratory who will provide a team of firearms examiners to assist with firearms casework backlog reduction for the retroactive grant period of 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019; and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to

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