



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2020

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

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 one Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head at a cost of [\$200,355.50] using \$195,205.00 from the 2018 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11515) and \$5,150.50 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

Recommendation to approve the purchase of one Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head at a cost of [\$200,355.50] using \$195,205.00 from the 2018 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11515) and \$5,150.50 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

We are requesting the purchase of a customized Hamilton STARlet robot with a Thermo Fisher Scientific Presto head for the quantification and amplification set-up of forensic casework DNA samples. The Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head will provide our laboratory with a bespoke robotic platform with computer scripts specifically designed for the WCSO Forensic Science Division. Purchasing this robot is a major step in our laboratory's plans to fully automate the DNA analysis process through the integration of software from the beginning of analysis to its completion. The addition of

AGENDA ITEM # _____

this instrument will provide a seamless workflow for the expeditious completion of valuable evidentiary sample processing from beginning to end.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recommendation to approve the purchase of one Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head at a cost of [\$200,355.50] using \$195,205.00 from the 2018 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11515) and \$5,150.50 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)
This price includes a 2-year service agreement for both instrument components and includes the necessary training needed to utilize the system.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of one Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head at a cost of [\$200,355.50] using \$195,205.00 from the 2018 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11515) and \$5,150.50 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 Hamilton STARlet with a Thermo Fisher Presto head at a cost of [\$200,355.50] using \$195,205.00 from the 2018 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11515) and \$5,150.50 from the restricted funding set up for DNA offender mandates per NRS 176.0911-0917 (IO 20391) under a sole source purchasing exemption."