



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 25, 2021

DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2021
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kerri Heward, Director – Forensic Science Division
(775) 328-2803, kheward@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Darin Balaam, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the purchase of one Hamilton AutoLys STAR robotic platform, 1 year service agreement, and associated validation services at a total cost of [\$366,898.01] using grant funds from the 2020 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11792) under a sole source purchasing exemption. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the purchase of one Hamilton AutoLys STAR robotic platform (\$237,306.61), 1 year service agreement (\$19,825.40), and associated validation services (\$109,766.00) at a total cost of [\$366,898.01] using funds from the 2020 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11792) 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 AutoLys STAR robot for the DNA extraction of forensic casework samples. We are also requesting the validation services of Thermo Fisher needed to expeditiously test and implement this system in our laboratory. The Hamilton AutoLys will provide our laboratory with a bespoke robotic platform with computer scripts specifically designed for the WCSO Forensic Science Division. This instrument is unique in that it can extract 48 sexual assault kit samples at once. No other robot of this size can accomplish this to date. 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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

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

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds to pay for one Hamilton AutoLys STAR robotic platform (\$237,306.61), 1 year service agreement (\$19,825.40), and associated validation services (\$109,766.00) at a total cost of [\$366,898.01] would come from the 2020 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11792).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the purchase of one Hamilton AutoLys STAR robotic platform, 1 year service agreement, and associated validation services at a total cost of [\$366,898.01] using grant funds from the 2020 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11792) 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 AutoLys STAR robotic platform, 1 year service agreement, and associated validation services at a total cost of [\$366,898.01] using grant funds from the 2020 Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (CEBR) DNA Grant (IO 11792) under a sole source purchasing exemption."