

STAFF REPORT

Date: February 28, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of the purchase of the Crime Fighter Barcoded Evidence Analysis Statistical Tracking Laboratory Information Management System (BEAST LIMS) in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Justice (US DOJ) for the use of grant funds. (Grant Funds)

From: Kathryn Nance, Chief of Police

Department: Police Department

Summary:

Approval of the purchase of Porter Lee's Crime Fighter Barcoded Evidence Analysis Statistical Tracking Laboratory Information Management System (BEAST LIMS) in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Justice (US DOJ) for the use of grant funds.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?		X
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	.0456%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

On October 11, 2023, Council accepted a grant award from the US DOJ, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Technology and Equipment Program (TECP) (Item B.5). This award, 15JCOPS-23-GG-01710-TECP, was for \$1,500,000. The original grant proposal included \$400,000 toward the purchase of this type of software.

Discussion:

The TECP grant application requested funds to purchase a comprehensive forensic laboratory information management system at an estimated cost of \$400,000. It specified a system that provides for the management of evidence from submission through to disposition, maintains chain of custody, and provides for the sharing of data with authorized partners. In addition, the system was to provide for the standardization of analytical notes and results and the generation of forensic reports. The BEAST LIMS system meets all of these criteria.

Currently, the Washoe County Crime Lab and the Sparks Police Department (SPD) use BEAST for evidence maintenance. The BEAST LIMS system also has unique compatibility and connectivity with the Hexagon Records Management System (RMS). The Reno Police Department (RPD) and its regional partner agencies have all adopted Hexagon RMS. RPD will be able to access evidentiary information maintained by our partner agencies in the same evidence system. It will decrease the opportunity for error in the inputting of duplicative information, prevent data loss, and improve the audit trail for the evidence collected.

Because of the amount of this purchase, we have requested specific approval from the US DOJ, per the grant requirements. We are requesting authorization for up to \$350,000 to allow for any cost increases or modifications if we are unable to obtain authorization to execute a purchase order within the time frame of our current quote and to accommodate small change order adjustments.

Financial Implications:

There is no impact on the General Fund for the initial purchase. The requested Council approval is contingent upon the US DOJ's authorization to make this purchase with grant funds. In future years, there will be a recurring charge for licenses. This is estimated at nine licenses at a cost of \$4,000 each (\$36,000). These costs will be borne by general funds.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City policy and Nevada law. Contracts of this nature (i.e., for computer software) are not subject to the requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 332 for an award by competitive bidding. (NRS 332.115).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approval to purchase the Crime Fighter Barcoded Evidence Analysis Statistical Tracking Laboratory Information Management System (BEAST LIMS) in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, contingent upon the approval of the US Department of Justice for the use of grant funds, and authorize the Chief of Police, Director of Finance, and/or City Manager to sign the relevant agreement and purchase orders.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

BEAST LIMS Quote 2/1/2024