

STAFF REPORT

Date: September 25, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Contract for joint agreement between the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Technical Medical, LLC., for phlebotomy services and court testimony for the Reno Police Department (RPD) in an amount not to exceed \$172,584. (General Fund)

From: Kathryn Nance, Chief of Police

Department: Police Department

Summary:

The Reno Police Department is responsible for investigating DUI offenses and gathering necessary evidence for prosecution, including blood samples. According to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 652.210, these samples must be drawn by qualified medical professionals, such as licensed physicians, certified paramedics, or certified phlebotomists.

In past years NaphCare, Inc provided these services to the Reno Police Department, through the Washoe County Sheriffs Office. NaphCare, Inc. Was contracted through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to preform phlebotomy services for the region to determine the concentration of blood alcohol (NRS 484C.020) for arrests involving DUI drivers, under NRS 484C.160. As of July 1, 2024, NaphCare, Inc., elected to discontinue phlebotomy services for any agency booked completing DUI related arrests and contracted solely with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

The proposed joint contract with Technical Medical, LLC, will enable the Reno Police Department to continue obtaining blood alcohol samples essential for prosecuting DUI cases under NRS 484C.110-130. This contract ensures compliance with NRS 652.210, which mandates that blood samples be taken by qualified personnel, thereby minimizing contamination and procedural errors. Additionally, Technical Medical will enhance operational efficiency by allowing officers to quickly obtain blood samples during peak hours, enabling them to return to patrol duties promptly. The company's professionals will also be available to testify in court, supporting the integrity and reliability of the evidence.

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?	0.013%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

None.

Background:

The Police Department is responsible for investigating DUI offenses and gathering evidence necessary for prosecution. In cases where a driver suspected of DUI refuses a breath test or if a more accurate measure of blood alcohol content (BAC) or the presence of controlled substances is needed, a blood sample may be required.

Under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 484C.160, law enforcement officers are authorized to obtain blood samples from individuals suspected of DUI. The statute also requires that these blood samples be drawn by a qualified medical professional (NRS 652.210), such as a licensed physician, certified paramedic, or certified phlebotomist.

Historically, the Reno Police Department contracted with NaphCare, Inc., through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for phlebotomy services. However, as of July 1, 2024, NaphCare, Inc. discontinued these services for the Reno Police Department and regional partners, continuing only with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Due to the lack of internal resources and staff with the necessary medical certifications, the Reno Police Department must now contract with an external phlebotomy service.

Discussion:

The joint contract for services with Technical Medical, LLC., will continue to allow the Reno

Police Department to submit blood alcohol samples for the successful prosecution of DUI's, 484C.110-130.

This contract will ensure we are compliant with NRS 652.210 which requires blood samples be taken by qualified personnel. By using certified paramedics or phlebotomists it minimizes contamination and procedural errors which is crucial for the maintaining the integrity of the evidence and successful prosecution of cases.

Technical Medical will also increase our efficiency allowing DUI officers and Patrol Officers to quickly obtain blood samples, particularly during peak hours, reducing the time and allowing officers to return to their patrol duties in an expedited manner.

Properly conducted blood draws are vital for the successful prosecution of DUI cases. The accuracy and reliability of blood test results can significantly impact the outcome of a case, making it essential to have skilled professionals handle the process. They will also be available to testify in court to the process.

The Technical Medical joint contract is quoted at \$127,539 annually, paid in quarterly installments in the amount of \$31,885 for phlebotomy services, with an unknown additional cost of \$81.90 per hour for court room testimony. Since this cost has never been recovered, the amount needed is unknown. Based on the amount of yearly blood draws (550) and 1 hr. of court time per draw, the Reno Police Department estimates a cost not to exceed \$45,045. The expense specifically for court testimony will be tracked and appropriately accounted for during the budget process.

Financial Implications:

Due to the timing of this information, the comprehensive cost was not included during the budget process. The additional expenses will be absorbed in the current year budget.

Legal Implications:

None.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the contract with Technical Medical, LLC., which will allow the Reno Police Department to continue to enforce DUI related crimes in the City of Reno, not to exceed \$172,584.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve the contract with Technical Medical, LLC., which will allow the Reno Police Department to continue to enforce DUI related crimes in the City of Reno, not to exceed \$172,584

Attachments:

Reno-Sparks Technical Medical phlebotomy agreement