

STAFF REPORT

Date: July 26, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and the City of Reno, on behalf of the Reno Police Department (RPD), for Crime Lab Services for FY 23/24 in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. (General Fund)

From: Kathryn Nance, Chief of Police

Department: Police Department

Summary:

Crime lab services play a critical role in law enforcement by examining and reporting on physical evidence collected during criminal investigations. This agreement will provide the means for the continuance of these services to the Reno Police Department (RPD) through FY 23/24 in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement with WCSO to provide crime lab services.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

July 20, 2022 - Council approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and the City of Reno, on behalf of the Reno Police Department (RPD), for Crime Lab Services for FY 21/22 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

August 11, 2021 - Council approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and the City of Reno, on behalf of the Reno Police Department (RPD), for Crime Lab Services for FY 21/22 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

September 25, 1990 - Council approved an Agreement for Dispatch and Forensic Services between the City of Reno Police Department and Washoe County Sheriff's Office (Item 06E6). In this agreement, the WCSO agreed to provide Forensic Science Investigation Services for RPD, while RPD agreed to provide Communication and Dispatch Services for WCSO.

Background:

Since 1990, WCSO has provided Forensic Science Investigation Services for RPD. In 1999, WCSO added toxicology services including blood alcohol testing, drug screens and post mortem toxicology. On November 10, 2020, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) agreed to terminate the 1990 agreement that allowed for crime lab testing to RPD in exchange for dispatch and communication services.

Discussion:

RPD seeks to build its internal capacity to examine and analyze evidence from crime scenes and to conduct toxicology analyses, so that it will not be dependent upon an outside entity and will be able to control future costs. The analyses produced by RPD must be able to withstand evidentiary challenge to be useful to the public. Building such a program takes time, expertise and funding. This Interlocal agreement will continue to give RPD time to secure qualified staff, acquire equipment and establish a foundation for future services. The WCSO has provided quarterly statistics during FY 22/23 as documentation of usage. This information is critical for the RPD to fully understand usage and future staffing needs.

Financial Implications:

This Interlocal Agreement will result in an expenditure not to exceed \$1,500,000 from the general fund, which is in the adopted budget.

Legal Implications:

WCSO and RPD are authorized to contract with one or more public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity, or undertaking that any of the public agencies entering into the Agreement is authorized by law to perform, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 277.080—.180). Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement with Washoe County Sheriff's Office to provide crime lab services and authorization for the Chief of Police, City Manager and/or Mayor to sign the necessary documents.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

FY24 ILA between RPD and WCSO