

**CITY OF TEMPE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Council Meeting Date: 02/11/2016
Agenda Item: 5B4**

ACTION: Award a sole source contract to Sorenson Forensics, LLC for the purchase of biological screening and DNA testing services for the Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of this contract shall not exceed \$495,000. Sufficient funds have been appropriated in the Grants and Restricted Revenue Fund (Fund 45) for the anticipated expenditures in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION: Award the contract.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The sole source contract being requested shall provide a qualified source to perform biological screening and DNA testing services for the City’s existing inventory of untested sexual assault kits and additional items of evidence that maybe identified from investigations. Last year the City applied for and was granted \$363,699 from the District Attorney of New York (DANY) Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Grant Program. The Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, on behalf of the towns and cities within Maricopa County also applied and was granted \$1,929,145 from the same grant program. Tempe’s share of this larger grant is yet to be determined.

Justification for Sole Source

The City is served exclusively by the Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory by statute and supplemental contracts. Due to the tremendous increase in demand to test sexual assault kits, the Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory is currently unable to provide the scientific testing and analysis of the untested sexual assault kits in a timely fashion. In an effort to meet the demands of their customers, the DPS lab has agreed to allow an outside vendor to meet the requirements.

After a review of the available private laboratories that could potentially examine the evidence involved in Tempe’s sexual assault cases, the Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory has determined that they will only accept results from one laboratory – Sorenson Forensics, LLC. This decision was made due to the cost involved in providing quality control to serve numerous labs, past experience with private laboratories, the sophistication of the testing, evidence storage and handling offered by Sorenson Forensics, and additional technical factors.

Based upon the decision of the DPS Crime Laboratory to only utilize Sorenson Forensics, LLC as their external lab for this project, it is requested that the City utilize Sorenson Forensics as the external sole source for testing of sexual assault kits and the related materials associated with the forensic investigation of sex crimes.

Pricing

The City and Sorenson Forensics, LLC have agreed on the following price structure for the testing services:

Service Offered	Unit Price
Flat rate sexual assault evidence collection kit	\$598.00/kit
Y-screening of additional items of evidence in sexual assault investigation (post-kit analysis)	\$150.00/item
Additional STR and/or YSTR amplifications (includes data analysis and applicable comparison)	\$180.00/sample
Expert witness testimony (excludes travel related costs)	\$100/hour

If approved as recommended, the City will begin coordinating for the transfer of kits to the Sorenson Forensics, LLC lab which is located in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is estimated that it will take approximately six (6) months for the lab to process the City’s backlog.

ATTACHMENTS: Contract

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Department Director: Renie Broderick, Internal Services Department Director

Legal review by: Bill Amato, Police Legal Advisor

Prepared by: Michael Greene, C.P.M., Procurement Administrator