



Legislation Text

File #: 22-4462, **Version:** 1

Department: Purchasing

Department Head/Elected Official: DeWight Dopslauf

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Contract - Award

Project ID (if applicable): 220067

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): Detain, Inc.

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable): 0%

MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable): N/A

Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: 0% - Specialized, Technical, or Unique in Nature

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request for approval of an award on the basis of best proposal meeting requirements and that the County Judge execute an agreement with Detain, Inc. for review of jail operations for Harris County for the period of August 2, 2022 - December 1, 2022 or through the full performance of the review (220067), MWDBE Contracted Goal: 0% - Specialized, Technical, or Unique in Nature.

Background and Discussion:

The Harris County Jail faces urgent and significant challenges regarding safety for staff and inmates, staffing shortages, overtime spending, and poor jail conditions. While action was taken to address immediate concerns, many problems are longstanding and require further evaluation and investments.

A workgroup facilitated by OMB and involving leadership from the Jail, as well as policy advisors and subject matter experts from the Justice Administration Department, County Judge's Office, and County Commissioners' offices, developed the scope of work for this effort in the first quarter of 2022. The emphasis was placed on identifying consultants with Texas jail expertise who could rapidly assess our current environment and then make practical recommendations that can be implemented (while identifying long-term and foundational issues for consideration).

Expected Impact:

The aim of this project is to conduct a deep review of jail operations focusing on safety and staffing issues, along with scanning for and exploring issues and ancillary organizations that drive jail performance, costs, and outcomes for our staff, inmates, and citizens. One important lever for driving change that is of special interest is understanding ways to strengthen the detention officer career path and improve the detention officer employee experience-to reduce attrition and improve overall safety and conditions for those working and residing in the jail.

Expected short-run impacts are reductions to over-time spending and attrition and increased job satisfaction and employee morale, along with a reduction in safety-related incidents at the jail.

Alternative Options:

The alternative would be to not to conduct an in-depth review of jail operations, safety, and staffing. Decisions would continue to be made at a higher level of analysis based more broadly on anecdotes and crises.

Alignment with Goal(s):

- ☒ Justice and Safety
- ☐ Economic Opportunity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any): N/A

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken

Location: N/A

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Choose an item.

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name			
	SFY 22	FY 23	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$259,248	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$259,248	\$	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$

Additional Budget Requested			
1000 - General Fund	\$259,248	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$259,248	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$259,248	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Court Date: August 2, 2022

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date):

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Bruce Haupt, Office of Management & Budget

Jorge Geronimo, Contracts Administrator, Purchasing

Attachments (if applicable): Letter, Backup