Legislation Text

File #: 23-2812, **Version:** 1

Department: Purchasing
Department Head/Elected Official: DeWight Dopslauf

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA
Type of Request: Contract - Amendment

Project ID (if applicable): N/A
Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C.

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable): N/A
MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable): N/A
Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: N/A - Personal Services Agreement

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):
Request that the County Judge execute an amendment to an agreement with LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C. in the additional amount of $66,000 for federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 for medical examiner services for the Institute of Forensic Sciences for the period of May 10, 2023 - December 31, 2023, in connection with a personal services exemption, Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: N/A - Personal Services Agreement.

Background and Discussion:
The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS) is experiencing an increased case load this calendar year in addition to an unprecedented attrition of Assistant Medical Examiners. To ensure timely completion of statutorily required autopsies, HCIFS is contracting with LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C. to provide medical examiner services. Dr. Tennant is an experienced forensic pathologist and has provided consultation to HCIFS in the past. She is already aware of the Department's needs, standard operating procedures, and accreditation requirements. There is no expectation that she would perform any autopsies that might require future courtroom testimony.

The agreement is being amended to add an additional $66,000 in ARPA funds to the contract amount.

Expected Impact:
Dr. Tennant will assist with caseload reduction by performing assigned autopsies. This will assist with turnaround time of case report completion, assisting with meeting accreditation standards, and providing information to decedent families.

Alternative Options:
The alternative is for HCIFS to continue processing cases as soon as possible with current staff leading to staff burnout, further attrition, and longer turnaround times.

Alignment with Goal(s):

X_ Justice and Safety
_ Economic Opportunity
_ Housing
_ Public Health
_ Transportation
_ Flooding
_ Environment
_ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any)**:**

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
05/10/2022	228	Approve personal service agreement with LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C. for medical examiner services
06/14/2022	232	Approve amendment to personal service agreement with LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C. to modify invoicing terms
02/21/2023	353	Amendment to include federal procurement terms, extend contract term to 12/31/2023, and ARPA funds

Location:
Address (if applicable): 1861 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, Texas 77054
Precinct(s): Choose an item.

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name			
	FY 23	**FY 24**	**Next 3 FYs**
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	$	$	$
Non-Labor Expenditures	$	$	$
Total Incremental Expenditures	**$**	**$**	**$**
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
1000 - General Fund	$132,000	$	$
2651 - American Rescue Plan 2021	$217,800	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Total Current Budget	$349,800	$	$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	$	$	$

Choose an item.	$	$	$
Choose an item.	$	$	$
Total Additional Budget Requested	$	$	$
Total Funding Sources	**$349,800**	**$**	**$**
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	**-**	**-**	**-**

Anticipated Court Date: 05/16/2023

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:

Julie Prine, JD, MFS, Chief of Staff / Senior Director, Operations

Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences; Melissa McCord, Sr. Contracts Administrator, Purchasing

Attachments (if applicable)**:**

Third Amendment to Agreement Between Harris County and LBT Forensic Consulting, L.L.C.