



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 24-1066, **Version:** 1

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**Department:** County Engineer

**Department Head/Elected Official:** Milton Rahman, PhD, P.E., PMP, CFM, ENV SP, County Engineer

**Regular or Supplemental RCA:** Regular RCA

**Type of Request:** Negotiation

**Project ID** (if applicable): UPIN 22270MF2H301

**Vendor/Entity Legal Name** (if applicable): MWA Architects

**MWDBE Contracted Goal** (if applicable): N/A

**MWDBE Current Participation** (if applicable): N/A

**Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal:** N/A - Goal not applicable to request

**Request Summary (Agenda Caption):**

Request for approval to negotiate with MWA Architects for Professional Architectural/Engineering design services in connection with the Institute of Forensic Sciences Building Morgue Renovation/Expansion, located at 1861 Old Spanish Trail, UPIN 22270MF2H301, Precinct 1.

**Background and Discussion:**

On February 8, 2022, Commissioner's court approved the Preliminary Investment Memo request of \$1,500,000 to provide professional services for the detailed design of the forensic genetics lab relocation, the morgue expansion, the relocation of other HCIFS departments during renovation, and the design plan of floors currently occupied. This is a request to use some of the previously approved funding for the professional design services for the morgue renovation/expansion. This includes assessment and potential replacement of morgue and toxicology storage coolers. All design work will be coordinated with the HVAC/MEP consultant.

**Expected Impact:**

The HCIFS morgue expansion is a necessity and must be accomplished as soon as possible. The Medical Examiner Services have seen a dramatic increase in cases and decedents. The morgue has outgrown its current cold storage space and must increase in capacity. Also, in 2022, the morgue and toxicology freezers/coolers had to have emergency repair services.

The Institute of Forensic Sciences Building - Morgue Renovation project will include the renovation and technological updates of the Medical Examiner morgue area and autopsy suites, and the assessment and potential replacement of morgue and toxicology storage coolers.

**Alternative Options:**

Without the necessary increased morgue space, IFS will continue to have an overloaded decedent cooler storage with no room for overflow or growth.

**Alignment with Goal(s):**

- 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
12/17/2019	4.i.7	Request for \$1M in CP funding for the IFS long-term masterplan
12/17/2019	1.e.2	Authorization to negotiate with Page Southerland Page, Inc. for the Masterplan Study for the IFS Building.
5/19/2020	1.g.4	Approval of \$86,000 for the Masterplan Study for IFS building.
12/15/2020	1.f.1	Approval of Amendment #1 for additional \$31,400 for study efforts
12/14/2021	38.	Approval of Amendment #2 for additional \$38,000 for morgue expansion study to complete study efforts.

**Location: Institute of Forensic Sciences Building**

Address (if applicable): 1861 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77021

Precinct(s): Precinct 1

<b>Fiscal and Personnel Summary</b>				
Service Name	Department wide			
	Current Fiscal Year Cost			Annual Fiscal Cost
	Labor	Non-Labor	Total	Recurring Expenses
<b>Funding Sources</b>				
<b>Existing Budget</b>				
Commercial Paper	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Additional Budget Request (Requires Fiscal Review Request Form)</b>				

Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Request	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Funding Request</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Personnel</b> (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)				
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-	-
Additional Positions Request	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Personnel</b>	-	-	-	-

**Anticipated Court Date:** February 27, 2024

**Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date):** N/A

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

**Contact(s) name, title, department:** Dr. Hatem Elbastawisy, P.E., (Interim) Senior Director of Project Delivery  
Division, Harris County Engineering Department

**Attachments** (if applicable): N/A