



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-2565, **Agenda Item #:** 50.

8/22/2019

### Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract with Thermo Electron North America LLC, for the purchase of a Raman spectroscopy analyzer, in an amount not to exceed \$90,458.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods required for this procurement, there are no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

### Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

### Client Department(s)

Austin Police Department.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$90,458 is available from the U.S. Department of Justice Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program for the project period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. A City match is not required.

### For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or [AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov](mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>> or to Leyla Mammadova, at 512-974-2938 or [Leyla.Mammadova@austintexas.gov](mailto:Leyla.Mammadova@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:Leyla.Mammadova@austintexas.gov>>.

### Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of a non-handheld Raman spectroscopy analyzer for the Forensic Toxicology Unit of the Austin Police Department (APD). The Forensic Toxicology Unit performs testing on submissions of seized drugs originating from APD investigations. The lab reports produced from this testing process are needed for presentation of evidentiary findings in a court of law in the State of Texas.

A Raman spectroscopy analyzer is a versatile piece of analytical chemistry hardware with the capability to quickly analyze complex narcotic samples using an infrared laser. The purchase of the instrument will add an analytical technique not currently possessed in the lab. It will expedite the analysis of large submissions of tablets and pills, currently requiring time intensive analysis on gas chromatography-mass spectrometry instrumentation. The instrument also allows for analysis of powders and liquids inside their original submission packaging (bottles, bags, vials, etc.) providing an additional layer of safety for lab personnel. This is especially helpful given the small increase in submission of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

The Texas Multiple Award Schedule establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a

streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

If a contract is not approved, APD may experience longer lab turnaround times and delays in the respective courts or tribunals awaiting lab analysis.