



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: A 24-362

July 16, 2024

Introduced: 7/8/2024

Version: 1

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Matter Type: BoS Agreement

a. Authorize the Contracts and Purchasing Officer or her designee to execute an agreement with Amar Forensics, to provide forensic pathology services and autopsy reports, effective July 1, 2024 (retroactive) through June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$1,800,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

a. Authorize the Contracts and Purchasing Officer or her designee to execute an agreement with Amar Forensics, to provide forensic pathology services and autopsy reports, effective July 1, 2024 (retroactive) through June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$1,800,000.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

This agreement is late due to the volume and complexity of some of the contracts that the Sheriff's office was trying to complete prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has been utilizing Amar Forensics (previously Venus Azar) since February of 2013.

The Sheriff performs the duties of the coroner through a combined Sheriff-Coroner's Office and is therefore responsible for provision and supervision of the coroner function. The Sheriff fulfills the coroner's duties by utilizing the services of the independent contractor who performs the forensic pathologist function for Monterey County. The coroner, who is charged with the investigation and determination of manner of death, utilizes the Forensic Pathologist to perform forensic post-mortem examinations (including autopsies and external examinations) as well as medical file reviews of any reportable or inexplicable deaths to determine the cause of death and provide input on the manner of the death. The pathologist performs necessary internal dissections and microscopic examinations. The forensic pathologists' findings are then compiled into an autopsy report. Currently the Coroner's Office processes approximately 40 decedents a month. As part of this agreement a new provision has been added to financially penalize the forensic pathologist for the untimely initial submission and thereafter ongoing delayed submission per autopsy reports create enhanced accountability on the work of the forensic pathologist in the best interests of the community.

A team of detectives and deputies act upon any cases requiring investigation or prosecution. If the death is ruled a homicide, the information gathered may be used in future court proceedings as necessary.

The MCSO request approval of this agreement.

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OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Office of County Counsel has reviewed and advised on this Agreement as to legal form. The Auditor-Controller has reviewed and approved the Agreement as to fiscal provisions.

FINANCING:

The cost of this contract was included in the FY24-25 Adopted Budget. There will be no increase to the General Fund contribution as a result of this Board action.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

- ☐ Economic Development
- ☒ Administration
- ☒ Health & Human Services
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☒ Public Safety

Prepared by: Arthur Curtright, Management Analyst III, Extension #3708

Reviewed by: Keith Boyd, Undersheriff, Extension #3859

Approved by: Tina Nieto, Sheriff/Coroner, Extension #3750

Deauthorized by:

Keith Boyd, Undersheriff

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Attachments:

Board Report

Amar Forensics_Standard Agreement

Amar Forensics_Exhibit_A

Amar Forensics_Exhibit_B