



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

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

Legistar File Number: 23-562

June 27, 2023

Introduced: 6/20/2023

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: General Agenda Item

a. Authorize the Contracts/Purchasing Officer or the Contracts/Purchasing Supervisor to execute Amendment #3 with Amar Forensics A-13884/A-14549, to provide forensic pathology services and autopsy reports, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, increasing the not to exceed maximum by \$600,000 to a total of \$3,257,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

a. Authorize the Contracts/Purchasing Officer or the Contracts/Purchasing Supervisor to execute Amendment #3 with Amar Forensics A-13884/A-14549, to provide forensic pathology services and autopsy reports, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, increasing the not to exceed maximum by \$600,000 to a total of \$3,257,000.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board approved the original agreement with Amar Forensics for pathology services and autopsy reports with Board Action A-13884 and A-14549.

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 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 amendment, a new provision has been added to the agreement 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.

If the death is ruled COVID related that information is submitted to the Health Department.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The agreement has been reviewed by County Counsel as to legal form.

FINANCING:

The cost of this contract was included in the FY23-24 approved 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

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Reviewed by: Keith Boyd, Undersheriff, Ext. #3859

Approved by: Tina Nieto, Sheriff/Coroner, Ext. #3750



Attachments:

Board Report

Attachment A - Amend. 3 w Exhibit A-1 & Exhibit C

Attachment B - Original Agreement w Amend. 1&2 w Board Orders