Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 25, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police, Police

Subject: Purchase Order No. 96348 Increase: Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory for Evidence Testing and Analysis Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to increase Purchase Order No. 96348 to Alameda County by $50,000 for a total amount not to exceed $100,000 to remit payment for FY 2014 invoices submitted to the Police Department by County of Alameda Treasurer for the Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory for evidence testing and analysis services provided in FY 2014 as expenditures exceed the purchase limit currently authorized.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommendation would increase Purchase Order No. 96348 by $50,000. FY 2014 funding for this cost has been appropriated in the General Fund budget code 010-7104-420.30-38. The increase in funding will be appropriated as part of the Second Amendment to the FY 2014 Annual Appropriations Ordinance in State – Proposition 172 Public Safety Fund budget code 367-7202-420.30-38.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

As of February 2014, submission of evidence to Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory in furtherance of violent crime investigation (i.e., homicide, rape, etc.) has resulted in $41,050 in costs which, combined with anticipated expense for evidence that is currently at the laboratory to be tested, will exceed the authorized $50,000 expenditure amount. Billing for the month of January was over $10,000 alone. In FY 2012, $93,383 and in FY 2013, $84,818 was expended on services from Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory.

Prolonged failure to remit payment to County of Alameda Treasurer for the Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory will delay processing of new or current evidence submitted. As a result, investigation of violent crime by the Police Department and related prosecutions may be adversely impacted.

BACKGROUND

Since 1995, the Police Department has submitted evidentiary materials to Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory for the purpose of scientific examination and analysis of evidence, such as common controlled substances, gunshot-residue kit examination, firearm examination, cartridge cases and fired bullets testing. The costs of these tests range from $92 to $720 dollars per test. As technologies advanced to include trace level testing (blood, hair, body fluids and DNA), it has become common for the District Attorney's office to require testing of all evidence noted in crime reports. Typically, the cost of DNA analysis ranges upward from $1,346.84, with $16,163 spent in FY 2013 on DNA testing.

Since 2009, Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory has been the sole public laboratory in the area that is capable of providing the needed services. We are in the process of reviewing other laboratories to determine if they provide the full spectrum of service offered by the Alameda County Lab.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This action supports the City of Berkeley's environmental sustainability goal to reduce transportation fuel use and paper consumption through electronic information transmission. Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory provides courier service to pick up evidence and deliver results to the department. All written reports and billing is sent electronically to reduce paper usage.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Authorizing the City Manager to increase the authorized amount of the Purchase Order will resolve outstanding FY 2014 invoices and ensure continuity of investigative services by Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory for the balance of this fiscal year.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No other alternatives have been considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Lynne Olesen, Public Safety Business Manger, 981-5976

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

PURCHASE ORDER NO. 96348 INCREASE: ALAMEDA COUNTY CRIMINALIST LABORATORY FOR EVIDENCE TESTING AND ANALYSIS

WHEREAS, the Police Department is responsible for emergency response to and investigation of violent criminal activity within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, effective investigation of violent crime involves the location, identification, and collection of evidence, including, but not limited to, common controlled substances, gunshot residue kit examination, firearm examination, cartridge cases, fired bullets, and DNA; and

WHEREAS, the collection, analysis and presentation of evidence is an effective and expected investigative tool utilized to accurately identify violent criminal offenders, due to advances in technology and expectation of the community and Court; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department requires evidentiary scientific examination services from Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, the cost for provision of scientific examination services provided by Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory in FY 2014 exceeds authorized funding established by Purchase Order No. 96348 by an amount of $50,000; and

WHEREAS, FY 2014 funding for services provided by Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory is insufficient to address outstanding FY 2014 invoices submitted to the City by that vendor; and

WHEREAS, prolonged failure to remit $50,000 to County of Alameda Treasurer for services rendered by the Criminalist Laboratory in FY 2014 will adversely impact the Police Department's ability to investigate violent crime; and

WHEREAS, FY 2014 funds will be appropriated as part of the Second Amendment to the FY 2014 Annual Appropriations Ordinance in State – Proposition 172 Public Safety Fund budget code 367-7202-420-3042.Future appropriations will be from the same budget code and are subject to availability.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to increase FY 2014 Purchase Order No. 96348 by $50,000 for a total amount not to exceed $100,000 to remit payment for FY 2014 invoices submitted to the Police Department by County of Alameda Treasurer for the Alameda County Criminalist Laboratory Funds are available in the current year General Fund budget, and for the subsequent years in budget code 367-7202-420.30-42.