



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 05/07/2024

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT AND BACKLOG REDUCTION GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submission of FY 2024 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) grant application to continue supporting the forensic biology/DNA section of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office (TCME).

BACKGROUND

The Formula DNA CEBR program furthers the Department of Justice's mission by funding states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis with two (2) main program objectives:

1. Increase the capacity of laboratories to process Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)-eligible crime scene samples in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology;
2. Increase laboratory efficiency for processing CODIS-eligible crime scene samples analyzed in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office has applied for Formula DNA CEBR grant since 2009.

The grant fund request totals \$530,000.00 and covers a period of twenty-four (24) months. Out of the requested funds, \$282,118.00 will be used to analyze crime scene samples to include in CODIS. This will be achieved through the utilization of grant-funded personnel and supplies. Additionally, \$247,882.00 will be allocated to improve the laboratory's capacity to carry out DNA analysis of crime scene samples for inclusion into CODIS. This will be done by procuring equipment, providing continuing education for personnel, and entering into a procurement contract for equipment validation.

The grant term is for twenty-four (24) months, beginning on October 1, 2024. The grant deadline is June 3, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant request is for \$530,000.00. There are no matching funds or operating subsidy required. There are no indirect costs allowed for this grant.

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Rand Otten
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