



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/05/2023

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS - PURCHASE OF DRUG STANDARDS AND CONTROLS, INSTRUMENT PARTS, NON-ROUTINE LABORATORY TESTING, AND CONSUMABLES - MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - VARIOUS VENDORS

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve an exemption from Competitive Bidding Requirements for the Purchase of Drug Standards and Controls, Instrument Parts, Non-Routine Laboratory Testing, and Consumables, for the Medical Examiner’s Office. The vendors that provide these supplies are as follows:

AB Sciex, LLC	Reagents, Controls, Instrument Parts
Abacus Diagnostics	DNA Kits and Consumables
Aldinger Co.	Calibration Services
Alere San Diego, Inc. d/b/a	Reagents, Controls, Instrument Parts
Immualysis Corp.	
Ambry Genetics Corporation	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Axis Forensic Toxicology, Inc.	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Beta Analytic, Inc.	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Cayman Chemical Company, Inc.	Pure Drug Standards
Cerilliant Corporation	Pure Drug Standards
Collaborative Testing Services, Inc.	Proficiency Samples
College of American Pathologists	Proficiency Samples
Dickson/Unigage, Inc.	Calibration Services, Parts, Supplies
Eppendorf North America, Inc.	Reagents, Chemicals, Instrument Parts
Fisher Healthcare	Reagents, Chemicals, Controls, Instrument Parts
Forensic Science Consultants	Proficiency Samples
JEE Cardiovascular Registry	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Life Technologies Corporation	DNA Kits and Consumables
Lipomed, Inc.	Pure Drug Standards
National Institute of Standards and Technology	Standard Reference Materials
National Medical Services, Inc.	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Nova Biomedical	Consumables and Controls
Perkin Elmer Health Sciences, Inc.	Instrument Parts, Software Maintenance,
	Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Phenomenex	Analytical Columns

SUBMITTED BY:	Purchasing	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Allan Tucker Chris Lax, CPSM, CPSD, CPCP
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QIAGEN

Quest Diagnostics Clinical Laboratories, Inc.
Restek Corporation
Serological Research Institute

Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc.
Southwestern Institute of Forensic
Sciences (SWIFS)
Steraloids, Inc.

TESCAN USA, Inc.
Tissue Techniques Pathology Labs LLC
Toronto Research
UCT, LLC
USA Scientific, Inc.
UT Southwestern Medical Center
UTAK Laboratories, Inc.

DNA Kits, Consumables,
Instrument Parts
Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Analytical Columns
Reagents, Chemicals, Controls, Stains,
PM
Instrument Parts, PM
Non-Routine Laboratory Testing

Pure Drug Standards
Instrument Parts, Consumables, PM
Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Consumables and Controls
Extraction Columns, Reagents
Benchtop Containers
Non-Routine Laboratory Testing
Controls, Blank Plasma and Urine

BACKGROUND

Under the County Purchasing Act, exemptions to the competitive bidding requirements are allowed for certain types of purchases. State bidding statute, Local Government Code Section 262.024(a)(2) deals with those exemptions allowable when approved by the Commissioners Court.

The Medical Examiner's Office provided a letter of explanation outlining the special needs and sensitive nature of their work in forensic services, thus requiring consistent drug standards and controls. The accreditation manual to which the laboratories must adhere dictates a very detailed and complex methodology, requiring standards and controls to come from the same source to ensure accuracy.

The exemption is effective from September 14, 2023 through September 13, 2024.

Therefore, it is the joint recommendation of the Medical Examiner's Office and Purchasing that the Commissioners Court approve an exemption from Competitive Bidding Requirements for the Purchase of Drug Standards and Controls, Instrument Parts, Non-Routine Laboratory Testing, and Consumables to ensure accuracy in forensic results.

FISCAL IMPACT

Expenses for last year were approximately \$433,261.49. Orders are placed on an as-needed basis. The department has included funding in the FY 2024 budget request in account 10000-2024/2310100000/569011.