



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting February 21, 2023

DATE: February 21, 2023

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
mikema@cctexas.com
(361)886-2601

Josh Chronley, Assistant Director of Finance-Procurement
JoshC2@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3169

Firearms Comparison Microscope for Corpus Christi Police Department

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing a one-year service agreement with Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, through Texas SmartBuy Cooperative, for the purchase of a firearms comparison microscope and training for the Corpus Christi Police Department for \$77,429.70, with FY 2023 funding from the General Fund.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes a one-year service agreement with Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to provide a firearms comparison microscope and onsite training for the Corpus Christi Police Department (CCPD).

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

This item is an FY 2023 Budget Initiative, with funds allocated for the purchase of the firearms comparison microscope and training.

The CCPD Forensics Firearms Unit conducts approximately 1,500 forensic analyses on firearms, bullets, ammunition, and toolmarks each year. Various analyses include comparison of bullets and fired casings, serial number restoration, physical examination, and function testing. The Forensic Firearms Unit's backlog is approximately 700 cases, with a turnaround time of greater than 60 days. A major bottleneck in this process is lack of equipment, which causes slowdowns in casework since examiners must take turns using the instrumentation. There are currently two Firearms Examiners and one microscope in the Forensics Firearms Unit. The current firearms comparison microscope is 15 years old and in good working condition. It does not need to be replaced.

The purchase of an additional firearms comparison microscope will provide each of the two Firearms Examiners with their own microscope which will help to reduce the backlog of cases that exists and as well

as help slow the build-up of future cases that will end up on the backlog if only one microscope continues to be used.

Having two firearms comparison microscopes will help modernize CCPD and its Forensics Firearms Unit. With a growing emphasis on technology within police departments across the country, it is vitally important that CCPD have modern equipment as well as sufficient quantities of such equipment. Having an additional firearms comparison microscope is crucial to properly maintaining CCPD's daily operations and the processing of criminal investigations. CCPD continues to modernize its department, equipment, and operations. The proposed firearms comparison microscope is a key component in that process.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

This procurement is through the Texas SmartBuy Cooperative. Contracts awarded through the Texas SmartBuy Purchasing Cooperative have been competitively procured, in compliance with local and state procurement requirements.

Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. is one of the leading US Manufacturers that offers this type of microscope needed for forensics research. The model produced by Leeds Precision Instruments Inc. only is available through the Texas Smart Buy Cooperative.

Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. is the manufacturer and offers 10% customer discount pricing off the catalog price in accordance with the Texas SmartBuy Cooperative. A different brand is available for the firearms comparison microscope and also is available through the Texas SmartBuy Cooperative. The alternative model was presented to CCPD's Forensics Department; however, the price comparison for the alternative model that is available through the Texas SmartBuy Cooperative yields a cost savings of only 4%. Below is a table that displays the difference between the pricing for the recommended Leeds Precision Instruments Inc. brand and the alternative model from Leica.

UNIT	Texas SmartBuy Leeds Brand*	Texas SmartBuy Leica Brand	Variance
Firearms Comparison Microscope	\$ 77,429.70	\$ 80,680.88	\$ (3,251.18)

*Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. only is affiliated with Texas SmartBuy.

CCPD prefers the recommended Leeds Precision Instruments Inc. brand because it has better optics than the Leica brand. Additionally, CCPD has been highly satisfied with Leeds Precision Instruments Inc.'s customer service. CCPD contacted the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) during the purchasing process to inquire about comparative microscopes, and DPS explained that they use and prefer the Leeds Precision Instruments Inc. microscope over comparable models for the same reasons.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to purchase the additional firearms comparison microscope, but to instead continue with the backlog of cases. This will result in the backlog of cases to continue to grow and for the two Firearms Examiners to continue to have to use only one firearms comparison microscope while working their caseload.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2023 General Fund budget impact will be \$77,429.70. This item is an FY 2023 Budget Initiative.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1020
Organization/Activity: 11780

Mission Element: 152
Project # **(CIP Only)**: N/A
Account: 520090
Amount: \$77,429.70

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this service agreement with Leeds Precision Instruments, Inc. for the purchase of a firearms comparison microscope and onsite training, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Price Sheet
Service Agreement