



County of El Paso Purchasing Department
800 E. Overland Room 300
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 546-2048 / Fax: (915) 546-8180
www.epcounty.com

ADDENDUM 2

To: All Interested Bidders
From: Blanca Carbajal, Procurement Data Analyst
Date: July 27, 2017
Subject: Bid #17-035 Forensic Toxicology Services for the County of El Paso Medical Examiner's

This Addendum has been issued to notify all vendors of the following questions:

- ❖ Opening date has been extended to **Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.**
 - ❖ Deadline for questions has not been extended.
 - ❖ **Please replace the signature page/price sheet with the attached updated form.**
1. Will the County provide the drug panels and individual drugs with the estimated number of cases per month (or year) which need to be included in the proposal?

RESPONSE: The vendor should provide the drug panels and individual drugs that are available for testing through their respective labs.

The Medical Examiner submitted 437 cases for toxicology in 2016.

2. Would the County advise which laboratory(s) provides testing?

RESPONSE: Yes, National Medical Services.

3. Will the County provide a copy of the current agreement?

RESPONSE: Yes. See attachment.

4. Will a performance bond be required?

RESPONSE: No.

5. The Solicitation Checklist states, "...provide one original and four (4) electronic versions of the complete bid (CD/DVD/Flashdrive) in Word/PDF Format..."

- Question: Does the County want four (4) separate CDs, each containing an electronic copy of the response or four (4) electronic copies of the response on one (1) CD?

RESPONSE: The County wants four (4) separate CDs, each containing an electronic copy of the response

6. Does the laboratory analysis have to be performed by analysts with five (5) years of experience in forensic toxicology? New employees in the field who are routinely hired and assigned to such lab work would be unable to meet this requirement. Toxicological interpretations could be easily made by scientists with this level of experience.

RESPONSE: Yes, as long as there is a toxicologist available with the level of experience. The forensic scientist must be certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

7. Is an average of ten (10) day turnaround time acceptable for routine samples? The range of routine samples could be 7-14 days in this case with metric data available to support this number.

RESPONSE: The 10 days is an average, however if 7 – 14 days would be acceptable.

8. Would a higher level of test sensitivity be an added benefit to the El Paso Medical Examiner's when choosing a vendor?

RESPONSE: Yes.

9. Will a vendor that can do all required testing without needing to outsource be considered more favorably?

RESPONSE: No.

10. Will a laboratory that also has the ability to provide services such as serology and DNA analysis, narcotics testing, and human performance toxicology be considered more favorably?

RESPONSE: Yes.

11. Will a laboratory with a larger scope of testing be more favorably considered? I.E. leaders in synthetic narcotics, esoteric substances, more inclusive standard post mortem panels which screen and confirm more possible substances compared to their competitors.

RESPONSE: Accuracy, thoroughness and efficiencies will be considered along with all other certifications required

12. What analytes would the County like to have the ability to screen and confirm in a routine test?

RESPONSE: All blood samples.

13. What analytes would the County like to have the ability to test for outside of a routine post mortem panel?

RESPONSE: Case dependent.

14. Is it acceptable to respond with two (2) levels of postmortem panels – a basic drug of abuse panel and a larger expanded panel – that includes both common drugs of abuse and other pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical intoxicants?

RESPONSE: Yes, with available add-ons.

15. How will the testing scope and reporting limits of the analysis be evaluated when comparing vendors?

RESPONSE: 1.- Ability to test the following samples: Blood, decompositional fluid extracted from body cavities, tissue (brain, liver, kidney, spleen) and urine.

2.- Basic toxicology testing panel that includes Acetone, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

Buprenorphine, Cannabinoids, Cocaine, Ethanol, Opiates (including Fentanyl), Isopropanol, Methadone, Methamphetamine / MDMA, Methanol, Oxycodone, Phencyclidine. These compounds should be identified and quantified whenever possible, using method including: Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC) High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry (LC/TOF-MS) Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) as indicated

3.- Expanded toxicology testing panel that includes Carbamazepine, 6-Monoacetylmorphine; Clonazepam; Acetaminophen; Acetone; Acetyl Fentanyl; Alfentanil; Alpha-Hydroxyalprazolam; Alprazolam; Amitriptyline; Amphetamine; barbiturates; Benzoyllecgonine; Benzotropine; Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC); buprenorphine; Bupropion; Buspirone; Caffeine; Cannabinoids; Carisoprodol; Chlordiazepoxide; Citalopram /

Escitalopram; Clonazepam; Clonidine; Clozapine; Cocaethylene; Cocaine; Codeine; Cotinine; Cyclobenzaprine; Desipramine; Desmethylsertraline; Diltiazem; Diphenhydramine; Donepezil; Doxepin; Doxylamine; Duloxetine; EDDP; Flunitrazepam; Fluoxetine; Fluphenazine; Flurazepam; Guaifenesin; Haloperidol; Hydrocodone; Hydromorphone; Hydroxybupropion; Imipramine; Isopropanol; Ketamine; LSD; Lamotrigine; Levamisole; Levetiracetam; Lidocaine; Lorazepam;; MDA; MDEA; MDMA; Meperidine; Mephedrone; Mepivacaine; Meprobamate; Mescaline; Methadone; Methamphetamine; Methanol; Methylphenidate; Midazolam; Mirtazapine; Morphine; Nalbuphine; Naloxone; Naltrexone; Naproxen; Nicotine; Nifedipine; Nordiazepam; Norfentanyl; Norflunitrazepam; Norfluoxetine; O-Desmethyltramadol; ODesmethylvenlafaxine; Olanzapine; Orphenadrine; Oxazepam; Oxycodone; Oxymorphone; PMA; Papaverine; Paroxetine; Pentazocine; Phencyclidine; Pheniramine; Phentermine; Phenylpropanolamine; Phenytoin; Primidone; Procainamide; Promazine; Promethazine; Propoxyphene; Protriptyline; Pseudoephedrine; Quetiapine; Quinidine; Quinine; Risperidone; Salicylates; Sertraline; Strychnine; Temazepam; Tetrahydrozoline; Theophylline; Topiramate; Tramadol; Trazodone; Triazolam; Venlafaxine; Verapamil; Zolpidem; Zonisamide;

These compounds should be identified and quantified whenever possible, using method including: Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC) High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry (LC/TOF-MS) Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

4. Expert testing availability to include:

- **Metals testing**
- **Pesticides, Herbicides**
- **Benzene**
- **Inhalants and volatiles (including difluorethane)**
- **Carbon Monoxide**
- **Aromatic Solvents**
- **Glycols Panel**
- **Anticoagulant Rodenticides**
- **synthetic cannabinoids**
- **Bath salts**

Acceptable methods to test for these compound include: High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), gas chromatography, Headspace Gas Chromatography (GC), et cetera

16. If laboratory typically charges a "flat fee" for each of the post mortem panels on each specimen type. This flat fee includes the screening of the individual specimen for a defined scope of toxins and quantitative confirmations for a flat

fee. This flat fee per specimen is charged, regardless of the amount of samples submitted. Will this structure be acceptable to fulfill the structure of this bid?

RESPONSE: Yes.

A. What is the term of this contract? In subsequent years is there ability for mutually agreed upon price increases each year?

RESPONSE: Three (3) years with two (2) year options to renew. Upon renewal, vendor may request price increase and would have to be mutually agreed upon.

B. What are the typical sample types submitted on each case?

RESPONSE: Blood, tissue on rare occasions.

C. Will any samples be submitted for storage only (do not have testing requested)? If yes, what is the frequency and volume of these occurrences?

RESPONSE: No.

D. It is an emerging need in the Forensic Pathology Industry that there is a testing need for designer drugs and synthetic cannabinoids (i.e. "Spice," "K-2," "Bath Salts"). Should the testing scope of these compounds be listed by the vendor as part of the bid?

RESPONSE: Yes.

E. Will the County of El Paso utilize any Crime Lab services provided by the contractor as part of the contract to include identification of unknown solids and liquids, or Forensic DNA Analysis?

RESPONSE: Yes.

17. Who is the incumbent provider of these products/services, if any?

RESPONSE: National Medical Services.

18. What does the County currently pay for the products/services described in this bid? (Is a contract available to view?)

RESPONSE: Yes. See attachment.

19. What is the term/length of this contract, such as three (3) years with two (2) 12-month renewals, etc.?

RESPONSE: Three (3) years with two (2) year renewal options.

20. Do you have an anticipated start date for this contract?

RESPONSE: September 27, 2017.

21. The provided Price Sheet only contains 4 line items: a price per case; an additional price for heavy metals, carboxyhemoglobin, and vitreous electrolytes; shipping and handling; and a discount rate for 200+ cases. However, on page 8 of the Bid, the County indicates that it would be beneficial to have an assortment of "comprehensive drug panels" with a standard price, supplemented with "a la carte" pricing. Should vendors then use the "price per case" line item on the Price Sheet as a "maximum" price per case and include a separate pricing schedule that shows prices per test?

RESPONSE: A current "fee schedule" with individual pricing. See attachment.

22. Would the County provide vendors with a list of tests that they have requested in the last year? Perhaps also showing volumes requested for each?

RESPONSE: NO, being the testing can change based on decedents case investigation.

See testing list.

(Additional comprehensive drug panels can be requested.)

23. Our Products and Completed Operations insurance policy is written on a separate, claims made policy with a \$10 million aggregate limit, rather than being included in the General Liability policy. Will the County accept this difference?

RESPONSE: Yes, as long as the county is named as additional insured on both the General Liability policy and the products/completed operations policy.

24. Per page 17, in the insurance section, the County is requesting to be additional insured and to be notified of changes during the policy period. A County cannot be named as additional insured for Workers Compensation and a certificate of insurance will not indicate that a County will be notified of any changes. Will the County accept this clarification?

RESPONSE: Yes, as long as the workers' compensation certificate provides a waiver of subrogation in favor of the county.

PRICE SHEET

**BID #17-035
Forensic Toxicology Services for the County
of El Paso Medical Examiner's Office**

Bidder Name _____ Address _____

Contact Name _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Description	Cost per each case
Price for testing each case regardless of amount of specimens. (Price should include a screen and quantization for positive results)	\$
Basic Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$
Expanded Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$
Urine Drug Screen w/6-MAM	\$
Price for additional testing:	
Heavy metals	\$
Carboxyhemoglobin	\$
Vitreous electrolytes	\$
Shipping and handling to be included	\$
Discount rate for number of cases (200 on up)	\$
Basic Postmortem Panel, Blood (200 on up)	\$

List any Exceptions to the bid specifications:

The undersigned certifies that the bid prices contained in this bid have been carefully reviewed and are submitted as correct and final. Bidder further certifies and agrees to furnish any and/or all product/service upon which prices are extended at the price offered, and upon the conditions in the specifications of the Invitation for Bid.

I hereby certify that the foregoing bid has not been prepared in collusion with any other bidder or other person or persons engaged in the same line of business prior to the official opening of this bid. Further, I certify that the bidder is not now, nor has been for the past six (6) months, directly or indirectly concerned in any pool or agreement or combination to control the price of product/service bid on, or to influence any person or persons to bid or not to bid thereon."

Signed _____ Printed Name _____

Title _____ Date _____