



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: **April 23, 2012**

CONSENT OR REGULAR: **Consent**

CONTRACT REFERENCE NO

(IF APPLICABLE): _____

SUBJECT:

Approve and authorize the purchasing agent to go out to bid for toxicology services for the El Paso County Medical Examiner's Office. Further, authorize a month to month extension on the current toxicology contract with National Medical Services until the new bid is awarded and a new contract is approved.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC:

To provide Forensic Toxicology Services for the El Paso County Medical Examiner for the purpose of death investigations where drugs of abuse and/or common alcohols are suspected as contributors to the cause of death. The lab must be National accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists, DPS accreditation under Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 28 Subchapter H. Accreditation of crime laboratory as predicate to the admission of evidence or testimony resulting from forensic analysis of physical evidence in a criminal case

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated at \$100,000.00 for the term of the contract

PRIOR COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION (IF ANY):

Bid # 09-034 – toxicology services

June 22, 2009 Contract KK 10-127 National Medical Services for two years

May 16, 2011 extension granted for additional year

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the purchasing agent to go out on bid and authorize a month to month extension on the current toxicology contract with National Medical Services until the new bid is awarded and a new contract is approved

SUBMITTED BY:

Irene Santiago, Administrative Support Manager 915-532-1447

CONTRACTOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into by and between the County of El Paso ("County"), a political subdivision of the State of Texas and National Medical Services (NMS) ("Contractor").

WHEREAS, the County issued Bid #09-034 to solicit bids for services to the El Paso County Medical Examiner's Office for toxicology services; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor was awarded the contract by the El Paso County Commissioners Court on June 22, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties mutually agree as follows:

1. Scope of Services Performed by Contractor. Contractor will provide postmortem toxicology panels as follows:
 - a. Basic Postmortem Toxicology which consists of the Basic offering of drugs of abuse and alcohol, and the Expanded Postmortem Toxicology which includes the Basic Postmortem Toxicology package plus a predefined selection of over 350 current, relevant abused and therapeutic drugs or metabolites. Basic and Expanded Postmortem Toxicology services include:
 - Routine screening of both blood and urine with quantitative confirmation testing performed in blood
 - Routine turn around time of 7 business days from receipt of postmortem samples
 - Certifying scientist's review with computer generated report.
 - b. Additional testing for metals/metalloids, carboxyhemoglobins, and/or vitreous electrolytes includes:
 - Screening and quantitative confirmation testing for all compounds included in the scope of the panel
 - Toxicologist directed analysis based on provided case history
 - Typed analysis report with a Toxicologist's certification and signature if ordered in conjunction with traditional autopsy panels.
 - Toxicologist assistance with routine questions regarding interpretation
 - c. All testing includes:
 - Preprinted account requisition forms
 - Specimen collection/shipping kits

- Prepaid Federal Express shipping (standard overnight services)
- Forensic Client Support services available from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EST)

2. Time of Performance. The duties of the Contractor shall commence on June 22, 2009 and terminate on May 11, 2011. This agreement may be renewed by the agreement of the parties, upon the same terms and conditions, for an additional one (1) year term, beginning on May 12, 2011. Contractor shall notify the County of its desire to renew this agreement not less than 60 days prior to its expiration. The County shall by action of the Commissioners Court, indicate its assent or rejection of Contractor's request to renew this agreement.

3. Compensation and Method of Payment.

Price for testing each case regardless of amount of specimens:

Acode 8051B Basic Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$139.00
Acode 8052B Expanded Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$230.00
Acode 8050U Urine Drug Screen w/6-MAM	\$0

Price for additional testing:

2661B Metals/Metalloids (Blood)	
Arsenic, Lead, Mercury	\$185.00
1002B Carboxyhemoglobin Screen	\$56.00
1916FL Vitreous Electrolytes	\$92.00

Discount rate for over 300 cases per year:

Basic Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$130.00
Expanded Postmortem Panel, Blood	\$221.00

If the County requests any testing that is not listed above, County agrees to pay the price listed in the 2009 NMS Fee Schedule issued on March 1, 2009.

Contractor shall submit invoices for all services rendered to the Medical Examiner. County shall pay Contractor within thirty (30) days following receipt of each invoice. Any penalties or interest for late payment must comply with Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code.

4. Independent Contractor. Contractor is an independent contractor, and neither Contractor nor Contractor's staff is, or shall be deemed, County's employees. In its capacity as an independent contractor, Contractor agrees and represents, and County agrees, as follows:

(a) Contractor will furnish all equipment and materials used to provide the services required by this agreement.

(b) The services required by this agreement shall be performed by Contractor and County shall not be required to hire, supervise or pay anyone to help Contractor.

(c) County shall not provide insurance coverage or benefits of any kind for Contractor or Contractor's employees.

(d) Contractor will pay all taxes arising by reason of Contractor's revenues hereunder, including all taxes upon property owned by Contractor.

5. Termination of Agreement. Either party has the right to terminate this agreement for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice.

6. General Provisions.

(a) Sole agreement. This Agreement and the bid submitted by Contractor in Bid #09-034 (to include the 2009 NMS Fee Schedule), which is incorporated herein, contain the entire agreement between Contractor and County. If there exists a conflict between this Agreement and bid, this Agreement governs.

(b) Severability. If any part of this agreement is held unenforceable, the rest of the agreement will continue in full force and effect.

(c) Applicable law. This agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and venue shall be El Paso County, Texas.

(d) Notices. All notices and other communications given in connection with this agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed given as follows:

To County: County Judge
El Paso County
500 E. San Antonio, Suite 301
El Paso, Texas 79901

CC: Medical Examiner
El Paso County
4505 Alberta
El Paso, Texas 79905

To Contractor: NMS Labs
3701 Welsh Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Notices shall be deemed given when delivered personally to the recipient's address, or three days after being deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid to the recipient's address.

(e) Assignment: Contractor may not assign its rights or obligations under this agreement without County's prior written consent.

(f) Amendment. Except as authorized in (g) below, this agreement may not be amended or modified except by a writing executed by both parties hereto.

(g) In the event any federal or state legislative and/or regulatory changes impact Contractor's laboratory testing business, Contractor will retain the right, upon prior written notice to County, to immediately amend this agreement to fully comply with any legislation or regulatory changes.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement on the _____ day of _____, 2010.

THE COUNTY OF EL PASO:

NATIONAL MEDICAL SERVICES:

By: _____
County Judge Anthony Cobos

By: _____
Shelly Carolan
Vice President of Sales &
Marketing



COUNTY OF EL PASO

Juan U. Contin, M.D.

Interim Chief Medical Examiner

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

AND FORENSIC LABORATORY

4505 ALBERTA

EL PASO, TX 79905

(915) 532-1447

IF NO ANSWER

FAX: (915) 532-6630

April 11, 2012

Piti Vasquez, Purchasing Agent

500 E. San Antonio

El Paso, Texas 79901

Re: Specifications for Toxicology Services

Mr. Vasquez,

Attached are the specifications for toxicology services for Medical Examiner's Office. I respectfully request we go out on bid for these services as soon as permitted.

Sincerely,

Juan U. Contin, Interim Chief Medical Examiner

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Specifications for Toxicology Services

Scope:

To provide Forensic Toxicology Services for the El Paso County Medical Examiner for the purpose of death investigations. Where drugs of abuse and/or common alcohols are suspected contributors to the cause of death, or as a drug-related general unknown.

Services:

- National accreditation from the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists
- Must have DPS accreditation under Title 37, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 28 Subchapter H
- Accreditation of crime laboratory as predicate to the admission of evidence or testimony resulting from forensic analysis of physical evidence in a criminal case
- Must accept blood, urine, vitreous fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, tissue (brain, liver, etc.) and or decomposed fluid
- Urine alcohols and marijuana need not be quantitated.
- Initial screen should include a "Drugs of Abuse" "Common Basic screen" "Common Acidic Screen" (if indicated). Alcohol to include ethanol, propanol, acetone, methanol, isopropyl, blood salicylate, acetaminophen, tri-cyclic antidepressants and anti-seizure medications if indicated
- Turn around time of no more than two weeks, including quantitation. Heavy metals and esoteric tests might require longer turn around
- Toxicology report to be faxed followed by a hard copy via mail
- Forensic toxicologist to be available for consult

Cost of services:

Please quote prices for the following:

- One price for testing each case regardless of amount of specimens. Price should include a screen and quantitation on everything that comes up positive.
- Shipping and handling to be included
- Price for additional testing: heavy metals, carboxyhemoglobin and vitreous electrolytes
- Discount rate for X number of cases