



City Council Report

Date: November 7, 2022
To: City Council
Through: Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer
From: Edward Quedens, Business Services Director
Kristy Garcia, Procurement Administrator
Subject: Purchase of an Integrated Ballistic Identification System (Addition) for the Mesa Police Department (Sole Source) **(Citywide)**

Purpose and Recommendation

Council is requested to approve the award as recommended.

The Police Department and Purchasing recommend awarding the contract to the sole source vendor, Forensic Technology for 225,500.

Background / Discussion

The Police Department is requesting the purchase of an Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS). The IBIS System provides timely actionable intelligence for the investigation of firearm-related crimes. IBIS is a search engine that helps law enforcement agencies quickly find links between firearm-related incidents.

In 2021, 74% of all homicides committed in the City of Mesa were a result of firearm violence. Year to date in 2022, 76% of all homicides are a result of a firearm. In 2021, there were 284 aggravated assaults with firearms in the City of Mesa. Aggravated assaults with a firearm in 2021, increased by 14% when compared to 2020; and 65% when compared to 2019. The surge in gun crime has contributed to a backlog in test-firing crime guns and the timely analysis of recovered shell casings.

In 2012, Council approved the sole source purchase of an Integrated IBIS. This purchase is for an additional system. The purchase of the additional equipment will speed up analyzing shell casings, providing investigators with the timely intelligence needed to quickly identify suspects. Two National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) systems (comprised of BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT component workstations) will support gun crime reduction initiatives in various ways. Specifically, they support multiple workflows. One allows for a trained group of personnel to test fire and make efficient entries for firearms collected from more routine incidents. The second is utilized by laboratory personnel, usually for more serious crimes, for firearms where best practices support laboratory processing first due to the severity of the incident.

Additionally, the laboratory workflow supports contracts for services to surrounding communities (Tempe, Gilbert, and Queen Creek) and, likewise, benefits Mesa directly since those communities share boundaries with Mesa. Eliminating workstations from either workflow has a significant impact on the efficiency of the other since the location and working environment are tailored to the varied nuances of each.

Finally, two workstations provide the department redundancy by allowing personnel in either workflow to assist the others for incidents that occur during non-business hours and require immediate entry to potentially provide actionable intelligence to investigating detectives.

Forensic Technology is the exclusive manufacturer of IBIS and Quantum 3D Microscope and can provide products, maintenance, upgrades, and services. Additionally, IBIS is currently in use under the ATF NIBIN program and is the only technology that has undergone extensive testing and complies with the security standards needed for integration into NIBIN. Other ballistic identification technologies are not compatible with NIBIN.

Purchase Information

Action: Award

Procurement Type: Sole Source

Contract Number: 2023109

Local Consideration: Policy did not apply to this procurement method

Protests Received: None

Funding Source: Police Department operating budget