

Item Title: Multi-Year Contract for Firearm Evidence Examination Purposes

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute a seven-year contract with LeadsOnline, LLC to provide the Wake County Bureau of Forensic Services (WCFS) access to and usage of solution services involving hardware devices and software needed to operate BrassTrax Acquisition Hardware Station, MatchPoint Analysis Software, and Quantum 3D Microscope, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with North Carolina State Statute, the Board of Commissioners shall approve all County multi-year contracts.

Background: The Firearms Unit of the Wake County Bureau of Forensic Services has utilized BrassTrax™, MatchPoint™, and Quantum 3D technology since April 2019 to link recovered firearms to crime events. Replacement of these technologies was planned in the County Capital Improvement Fund. The annual software component of these technologies was included in the General Fund. The current vendor of these technologies, LeadsOnline, did not offer an annual renewal for FY 2026. A seven-year contract is needed for the Firearms Unit to continue accessing the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

Strategic Plan: This action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: The cost of this contract is \$640,550.63 over seven years. The FY 2026 cost will be paid out of the County Capital Improvement Fund. Future costs will be included in subsequent budgets.

Additional Information:

BrassTrax™ is a workstation for the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). NIBIN is hosted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). BrassTrax™ digitally photographs impression details from the head of fired ammunition cartridge casings. MatchPoint™, the software component for NIBIN, provides visualization and analysis tools that enable Firearm Examiners to determine matching and non-matching results returned by NIBIN. The Quantum 3D Microscope is a forensic microscopy workstation that performs 3D topography imaging and visualization of fired casings. It provides 3D visualization and reviewable quantitative algorithmic data for common source comparison.

These technologies are used to match fired casings collected from crime scenes to recovered firearms. Linking recovered firearms to separate criminal cases connects the investigation information from each case, which can aid in solving crime. Comparison of

a test fire casing from a known firearm and a casing collected from a crime scene can directly link or exclude the use of a specific firearm during commission of a crime.

Attachments:

None.