

Item Title: Repurposing Portion of CIP Funds Appropriated for CCBI DWI Blood Chemistry Laboratory Upgrade to Add Forensic Firearm/Ballistic Services to the CCBI Crime Laboratory

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Creates 2.00 Forensic Examiner FTEs in CCBI to operate the Firearms/Ballistics Laboratory, and**
- 2. Approves the transfer of \$85,000 from the County Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund for six months of salary and benefits.**

Item Summary:

In early 2017, Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman expressed the need to add forensic firearm services to the CCBI Crime Laboratory due to the State Crime Laboratory's backlog of firearm evidence examinations. To address this backlog, CCBI plans to repurpose a portion of the current DWI Blood Chemistry Laboratory Upgrade Funds for the acquisition of a Firearms/Ballistics Laboratory. CCBI requests the Board of Commissioners approves 2.00 Forensic Examiner FTEs in CCBI's Crime Lab Unit and transfers \$85,000 from the County Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund to provide six months of salary and benefits in FY2018.

The FY 2017 – 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) included \$830,000 funded with ABC revenue to upgrade the CCBI DWI Blood Chemistry Laboratory to increase the ability to identify drugs in blood samples from DWI cases, which is not readily identifiable with CCBI's current instrumentation. The project included funds for the purchase of new mass spectrometers and building renovations to accommodate this equipment. Prior to the project's approval, requests for drug testing in DWI cases had increased from 25% in 2012 to 45% in 2016.

A portion of the DWI Blood Chemistry CIP funds have been applied towards the original scope of the project. Actual expenditures include \$18,298 for consultant review of current processes and renovation design and \$35,356 to upgrade to the Uninterrupted Power Source (UPS) system.

Table 1: Status of CCBI DWI Lab Equipment Upgrade	
Current Project Appropriation	\$830,000
Expenditures To Date	\$53,654
<i>Consultant Review and Renovation Design</i>	\$18,298
<i>Update Uninterrupted Power Source</i>	\$35,356
Current Balance	\$776,346

To meet the request, funding from the DWI Blood Chemistry Laboratory Upgrade project will be reallocated for a Firearms/Ballistic Laboratory. The estimated costs for this laboratory are listed below.

Table 2: Estimated Firearms / Ballistics Laboratory CIP Costs	
IBIS System	\$203,000
Comparison Microscope	\$88,000
Stereo Microscope	\$5,200
Bullet Recovery System	\$68,000
Laboratory Construction	\$170,000
Transfer to General Fund for FTEs	\$85,000
Total Estimate	\$619,200

The equipment for a Firearms/Ballistics Laboratory includes the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), two microscopes, and a Bullet Recovery System (BRS). Room C1378 of the current CCBI Crime Laboratory would house the IBIS system and the microscopes. Minimal renovations are needed for room C1378 and laboratory construction estimates include the cost of acquiring Internet connection and modification of existing cabinetry.

The BRS would be located in a single bay of CCBI's garage. The BRS is designed to be a self-contained system, but requires plumbing connections for water supply and drainage and electrical connections. Both of these exist within the garage in close proximity to the proposed location of the BRS. Any additional building requirements would be determined by Wake County GSA.

The installation of a Firearms/Ballistics Laboratory would begin in the last quarter of 2017. Equipment would be purchased in October. Two Firearms Examiners would be hired in January 2018 to set up equipment, develop protocols, and conduct examinations. This CIP project would conclude with the installation of equipment, development of protocols, and accreditation of the Firearms Laboratory in July 2018.

\$85,000 will be transferred from the County Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund for six months of salary and benefits for the Forensic Examiner positions. Ongoing salary and benefits for the two new FTEs and the required preventive maintenance for the equipment will be added in the FY 2019 recommended budget.

Table 3: FY18 and FY19 General Fund Estimates			
Cost Summary	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Forensic Examiner Salary and Benefits (2.00 FTEs)	\$ 85,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000
Ballistics Lab Equipment Preventative Maintenance		\$ 10,280	\$ 22,738
Totals	\$ 85,000	\$ 180,280	\$ 192,738

CCBI will submit a request for additional funding to complete the remaining renovations to the DWI Blood Chemistry Laboratory in the FY 2019 – FY 2025 CIP. Remaining renovations include the purchase of a mass spectrometer, consultant fees, and ancillary equipment. As well, any unspent funds on the Ballistics Laboratory will go towards the DWI Lab.

Attachments:

1. CCBI Budget Memo