



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Agreement with Forensic Technology, Inc. for Integrated Ballistic Identification System

MEETING DATE: February 1, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Christine Booker, Budgets & Grants Analyst

REVIEWED BY: Ron Puccinelli, Information Technology Director

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Approve the purchase of BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) equipment, related software, and warranty with Forensic Technology, Inc., a member of the Ultra Group, under Meniffee Municipal Code 3.12.070(A)(7) and (8), as a unique commodity, equipment, service obtained as a sole source purchase from Forensic Technology, Inc. a member of the Ultra Group; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the required documents and the Finance Department to issue a corresponding Purchase Order (PO) for the purchase, and/or contract; and
3. Adopt a Budget Amendment Resolution appropriating \$233,856 to the IT Fund (Fund 110) to specific expenditure accounts identified; and
4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the required documents and the Finance Department to issue a corresponding Purchase Order (PO) for BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT IBIS system for years 2 through 6, contingent on budget availability.

DISCUSSION

Law enforcement today faces a rapidly shifting landscape with challenges on every front. Success in meeting the challenges of the future requires policing strategies that leverage advanced technologies. The City of Meniffee is committed to enhancing technology within the Police Department that enables staff to provide a higher level of service and increased public safety.

Ultra Forensic Technology, Inc. (Ultra) is the pioneer of automated ballistic identification, and the creator of IBIS technology used in over 80 countries to combat and prevent firearm crime. In 1997,

ATF established the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to provide local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement partners with an automated ballistic imaging network. This technology is vital to any violent crime reduction strategy because it enables investigators to match ballistics evidence with other cases across the nation. This process also helps reveal previously hidden connections between violent crimes in different states and jurisdictions. NIBIN is only used for criminal investigations and does not capture or store ballistic information acquired at the point of manufacture, importation, or sale.

While the City of Menifee is fortunate to not face many violent crimes, the City does face many firearms related crimes and confiscates many NIBIN eligible firearms. A large part of this is due to a geographic location. The City is a thoroughfare for trafficking of many items, to include firearms, as well as being surrounded by violent crime challenged cities on our neighboring borders. Within the first 18-months of the Menifee PD's inauguration, the City received four out of jurisdiction investigative leads through NIBIN on firearms that were confiscated within the jurisdiction. But the problem lies in the turnaround time that the City currently encounters.

Presently, Menifee PD is required to mail evidence to northern California, due to there not being a NIBIN Correlation Center in the region. Aside from the concerns with Chain of Custody, this also slows down investigative leads a great deal. It takes upwards of four weeks to receive a "quick" response on submitted evidence. This is inclusive of collection, test firing, shipping, lab assignment, triaging, and correlating. By the time we receive our leads, the subject in custody has been released and/or bailed out, and it is nearly impossible to continue the cold trail.

The ability to have real time leads developed, information for crimes committed outside of our jurisdiction with the weapon or casings that we have recovered, would be invaluable to furthering our purpose of assuring the safety of the citizens of Menifee. It would put the leads in detectives' hands while subjects are still in custody. It would allow us to identify leads for unsolved crimes in our region, crimes committed by subjects that have not been identified by law enforcement yet. It would allow us to be a resource to our partners in the County and assist in making all Riverside County safer for our citizens and families.

NIBIN currently has 4.5 million pieces of ballistic evidence stored in it, with 472,948 pieces being acquired in 2020 alone. Of those 2020 acquisitions, 104,206 NIBIN leads were generated across the country, linking violent crimes, offenders, and evidence together and generating comprehensive leads for investigators for the purpose of prosecuting criminals and combating violent crime.

The Menifee Police Department recommends the procurement of the BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT systems, as well as a 6-year service agreement with Ultra, for software to further increase the effectiveness and efficiency of department staff; enabling the department to more effectively investigate firearm related crimes and combat violent crime.

Pursuant to Menifee Municipal Code 3.12.070(A)(7) and (8) the purchase of the BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT IBIS software is recommended as unique commodity and that this can only be obtained from one vendor (sole source). The BRASSTRAX and MATCHPOINT equipment and software is a proprietary system that is only manufactured and sold by this vendor. From a technology standpoint, this system is the only system currently fully integrated with NIBIN.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Safe and Attractive Community

FISCAL IMPACT

The aggregate fiscal impact of the Ultra, is \$346,762 covering a six-year warranty subscription period, and a one-time implementation cost. The annual cost of the warranty and software subscription costs for the additional five-years would be \$22,581.20.

Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 will be funded by the available fund balance within the IT Fund (110), specifically within Account #110-4911-51355 (Capital Outlays) in the amount of \$211,275 for the equipment component of the purchase, and Account #110-4911-53153 (Cloud Based Subscription/Licenses) in the \$22,581 for the software and warranty components.

Future costs (years 2 thru 6) of \$112,906 will be budgeted in the corresponding fiscal years' budget(s).

The funds for this purchase were previously allocated in FY 2021/2022 but were unable to be encumbered prior to the end of the year. A corresponding Budget Amendment Resolution is included as part of this staff report approving appropriation of \$233,856 for FY 2022/2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ultra Forensic Technology, Inc. Proposal Packet with Sole Source Letter
2. BAR - Ultra Forensic Technology