



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 26, 2009

Agenda Item No. 40B

Roll Call No. 09-

Communication No. 09-735

Submitted by: Judy A. Bradshaw, Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

Award of Bid V10-02 for three forensic fuming cabinets to Foster & Freeman USA Incorporated, David Tobin, President, 46030 Manekin Plaza #170, Sterling, Virginia 20166.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of bid to Foster & Freeman USA Inc. for three forensic fuming cabinets. The Police Department's Detective Bureau through the Justice Assistant Grant 2009 has been able to fund the purchase of new Cyanoacrylate Fuming Cabinets. These cabinets are used to acquire fingerprints from a variety of forensic evidence. The Purchasing Department issued specifications to seven (7) qualified vendors and received four (4) proposals. The low dollar bid (Sirchie Fingerprint Labs) did not meet specifications associated with construction and UV lighting. The next low dollar bid (Air Science USA LLL.) also failed to meet specifications associated with dimension requirements, construction and lighting requirements. The third low dollar proposal is Foster & Freeman USA Inc., which meets all specifications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$48,122.83

Funding Source: FY2010 Operating Budget , 2009 Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant, Special Revenue Funds SP751, POL984135, page 252.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Des Moines Police Department Detective Bureau Identification Section is responsible for compiling and interpreting forensic evidence acquired at crime scenes. Obtaining finger prints to differentiate between victim and suspect is a critical part of any investigation. A sophisticated method of finger print acquisition is accomplished through Cyanoacrylate Fuming commonly referred to as "Super Glue Fuming". The vaporization associated with this technique requires the utilization of Fuming Cabinets to confine the evidence and prevent any harm to personnel during the process.

Sirchie Fingerprint Labs, the low dollar bid was non compliant to required specifications in several areas including the sizes of each cabinet, the cabinets not having or including UV lighting for the disinfection of the cabinet to stop cross contamination of DNA, and the construction of the cabinet not being the material or the design that was specified.

Air Science USA LLL was the next low dollar bidder. Each of the cabinets bid were larger than the specifications, the two smaller cabinets were made with laminate glass in a Polypro frame, each of the cabinets had an internal fluorescent lighting system, (the specification was for no internal lighting to interfere with temperature or humidity, and laminated glass on all sides for optimal viewing & allowing ambient light to enter the unit) and the product did not allow for viewing of the evidence from all angles as a glass unit does.

The third low dollar bid was submitted by Foster & Freeman USA Incorporated, which meets all specifications.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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