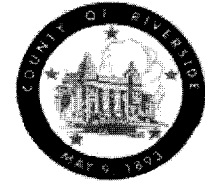


**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

561



FROM: Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA

SUBMITTAL DATE:
08/25/09

SUBJECT: Approve the Increase in Compensation with Stephanie Erlich, M.D.
for Neuropathology Consultations on behalf of the Sheriff-Coroner

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the annual contract increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000 with Dr. Stephanie Erlich, which contains an option to renew the Agreement for two additional one-year periods.
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, in accordance with Ordinance No. 459, to exercise the renewal option, based on the availability of fiscal funding, and to sign amendments that do not change the substantive terms of the Agreement, including amendments to the compensation provision that do not exceed the annual CPI rates.

BACKGROUND: The County's Chief Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Joseph Cohen, must utilize a number of Physicians and trained technicians for specialized postmortem services. On July 31, 2007 (3.100), the Board approved a sole source award of a three-year contract to Dr. Erlich. In special death investigations, Dr Erlich is called upon to conduct macroscopic examinations of a decedent's brain, spinal cord and eyes.

(Continued on Page 2)

Will Taylor
Stanley L. Sniff Jr., Sheriff-Coroner-PA
Will Taylor, Director of Administration

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$45,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$45,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$45,000	For Fiscal Year:	FY 2009-10

SOURCE OF FUNDS: General Fund BR 10-026	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY: *Robert Tremaine*
Robert Tremaine

County Executive Office Signature

Purchasing: *Mark Seiler*
 Mark Seiler, Assistant Director
 Departmental Concurrence
 Dept't Recomm.: Consent Policy
 Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

APPROVED TO A-30

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 07/31/07 3.100 | District: All | Agenda Number:

3.59

In early calendar 2008, Dr. Erlich notified the Sheriff's Department that she would be moving to Wyoming. However, she indicated that she could return to Riverside County, perhaps twice a month, to continue consulting on our cases. Understandably, since there was now interstate travel involved, she requested that her per case consulting fee increase from \$450 to \$580. County Purchasing, in acknowledgement of the scarcity of Board certified Forensic Neuropathologists in the state, approved the new per case fee and an increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the annual contract cost.

This revised working relationship with Dr. Erlich proved workable, though certainly not optimal. Therefore, the Coroner's office continued a search for a local Physician. In December 2008, the Department was able to negotiate a contract with Dr. Frank Sheridan, who also provides neuropathology consultations for the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office. However, he has not been available, as required. So the Department is back to almost solely utilizing Dr Erlich.

Based on Dr Erlich's projected number of consultations in FY 2009-10, the Sheriff's Department is requesting approval from the Board to set the Doctor's contract cost at \$45,000. Note that Dr. Erlich's fee has not increased this fiscal year, only the Coroner's projected caseload.

Price Reasonableness

In 2007, when the Board approved Dr. Erlich's present contract, Dr. Cohen estimated that the consulting fee for Neuropathologists ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 per case. Dr. Sheridan's fee is \$550 per case. Therefore, Dr. Erlich's \$580 fee is more than reasonable, considering she travels from Wyoming.

Date: 08/26/09

From: Riverside County Sheriff's Department

To: Board of Supervisors

Via: Purchasing Agent

Subject: Sole Source Procurement; Request for

The information below is provided in support of my Department requesting approval for a sole source. Outside of a duly declared emergency, the time to develop a statement of work or specifications is not in itself justification for sole source.

Supply/Service being requested: The Sheriff-Coroner's office requires the services of a Forensic Neuropathologist.

Supplier being requested: Stephanie S. Erlich, M.D.

Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service: None

Extent of market search conducted: None

Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide: There is a scarcity of Board Certified Forensic Neuropathologists in Riverside County and in fact all of Southern California. Dr. Erlich has provided these services on a case-by-case basis to Riverside County since 1999, and has provided neurological examinations for a number of other nearby counties.

Even though Dr. Erlich moved to Wyoming in early calendar year 2008, she indicated that if the County agreed, she could travel back to the County for scheduled visits to continue her consulting work. To cover traveling expenses, she raised her fee from \$450 to \$580 per case. Again, due to the limited number of Board Certified Forensic Neuropathologists in this part of the State, the Department and County Purchasing agreed to continue the contract relationship with Erlich.

In December 2008, in an effort to decrease the Department's dependence on Erlich, a contract was negotiated with Dr. Sheridan, a local Physician who also consults on cases for San Bernardino County. Unfortunately, Dr. Sheridan has not been available, as required. Therefore, Dr Erlich has been handling most of our cases.

Price Reasonableness: In 2007, the County's Chief Forensic Pathologist, Dr Joseph Cohen, verified that the fees for Neuropathologists ranged from \$500 to \$1,000 per case. Two years later, with the cost of air fare incorporated into her fee, Dr. Erlich is still at the low end of the fee scale range. Further, our local alternative, Dr. Sheridan, when available, is charging \$550 per case.

Reasons why my Department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the County: In special death investigations, a Forensic Neuropathologist is required to conduct macroscopic examinations of a decedent's brain and/or spinal cord or eyes.

Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the County to future similar contractual arrangements: No.

Will Taylor
Department Head Signature

10/1/09
Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove

Mark Pir
Purchasing Agent

10-1-09
Date