

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

822



FROM: Stanley Sniff, Sheriff - Coroner - PA

SUBMITTAL DATE:
03/04/13

SUBJECT: Approval of a Sole Source Purchase of Four LED Fiberscopes From SAS R & D Services for the Sheriff's Special Investigations Bureau

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to award a sole source purchase for the Sheriff's Department of four LED fiberscopes from SAS R & D Services Inc., in the amount of \$70,200, without obtaining competitive bids in accordance with Ordinance 459.4.

2. Approve an annual spending authorization of \$5,000 with SAS for fiberscope maintenance and repairs through June 30, 2018.
(Continued on Page 2)

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$70,200	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	2012-13

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Grant Program (100%) BR 13-065	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

BY: *Elizabeth J. Olson*
Elizabeth J. Olson

County Executive Office Signature

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Purchasing: *Mark Seiler*
Mark Seiler, Assistant Director
Departmental Concurrence

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Services
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BACKGROUND: The department is seeking a fiberscope that will allow deputies to extensively search and detect contraband. A fiberscope is a cable that is made of fiber optic material. This material allows light to travel very efficiently through the cable. A fiberscope typically has a lens on one end and an eyepiece for viewing.

SAS provides a fiberscope that will allow deputies to conduct searches for contraband through the tire valve stem, and through tight area and spaces of a vehicle with ease without having to dismantle the vehicles. Some vendors offer products that can detect anomalies within a tire, gas tank, etc.; however, they cannot provide a clear picture of the item. Without this capability, officers cannot form the probable cause needed to extend a detention and/or attempt to retrieve what they believe is contraband.

The fiberscope offered by SAS comes in different lengths and the diameter of the fiberscope is small enough to fit through the tire stem to avoid destruction of the tire. Air loss in the tire is minimized due to a sealing system from the fiberscope and there is no need to cut tires open.

In addition, SAS is the only company that provides a complete field kit with their fiberscopes. The kit contains equipment to quickly switch out wire lengths, a wire repair kit, external charger, spare battery, car charger, a gas tank adapter, handheld mirror, video camera, monitor, portable light source, extension cords, and a 2.0 mm microboroscope with right angle adapter. The monitor allows deputies to record video of crucial evidence for use in criminal cases.

The complete kit allow repairs to be done in-house by the deputies rather than sending them to the manufacturer for repair, which often includes high cost and may result in the loss of evidence. It is crucial for us to maintain control of all evidences captured by the fiberscope as they are crucial to criminal investigations.

Further, SAS is also the only vendor that offers a fiberscope car charger that will allow for quick and prompt recharge of the equipment, the spare battery for quick replacement, and a gas tank adapter to allow deputies to quickly interchange equipment and continue with proper search of the vehicle. Other vendors contacted indicated they were not capable of providing a comparable fiberscope with accessories and repair kit mentioned.

PRICE REASONABLENESS: SAS has offered the Sheriff's Department a quantity discount of over 14.3%. Its regular price for the fiberscope, the complete master field kit and the tire scope with sales tax and shipping is \$20,069. The unit price to the Sheriff with tax and free shipping is \$17,550, and the total cost for the four fiberscopes with the complete master field kits is \$70,200.

Date: February 5, 2013
From: Lieutenant Jon Anderson Department/Agency: Sheriff-SIB
To: Board of Supervisors/Purchasing Agent
Via: Purchasing Agent
Subject: Sole Source Procurement; Request for Articulating Fiberscopes

Summary

The information contained herein is provided in support of the Sheriff's Department request for approval for a sole source purchase. Although there are numerous technical reasons for this sole source purchase request (specifically the fact that no other vendor offers the product), the most compelling reason is operational. The officers who perform the tasks of highway drug interdiction and asset forfeiture must operate within the confines of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as numerous case law decisions, which essentially require proof of contraband in order to continue a detention and retrieve the item(s) from concealed areas of a vehicle.

Details

1. **Supply/Service being requested:** Lightweight One Piece LED Fiberscopes / The Ultimate Fiberscope.
2. **Supplier being requested:** SAS R&D
3. **Alternative suppliers that can or might be able to provide supply/service:** None
4. **Extent of market search conducted:** An extensive search for vendors to supply the same product was performed on the Internet, at project fairs, and through conference vendors. The vendors of similar products claim to provide the same core product and accessories; but in reality, their product is not built from the same grade material, or offers as many options/accessories as those that come with the SAS Master Kit. The following companies products were researched:
 - Cseco Fiberscopes
 - Advanced Inspections Technologies
 - Instrument Technologies Incorporated

Although research on the product has been conducted, no quotes have been obtained for two reasons; (1), no other company produces one complete kit, and (2), some companies do not even sell certain portions of the product. SAS is currently the only company to produce the required equipment in a complete kit; all of which is needed to complete the necessary tasks.

5. **Unique features of the supply/service being requested from this supplier, which no alternative supplier can provide:** Some vendors offer products that can detect anomalies within a tire, gas tank, etc.; however, they cannot provide a clear picture of the item. Without this capability, officers could not form the probable cause needed to extend a detention and/or attempt to retrieve what they believe is contraband. Without this probable cause, the Department will not only lose the case, but also the money and contraband, due to the

Exclusionary Rule – *Mapp v. Ohio* 367 U.S. 643 (1961), which suppresses evidence that was seized in violation of the Fourth Amendment, but they will also be in jeopardy of civil law suits.

Additionally, the Ultimate Fiberscope has been developed as the first field repairable fiberscope available. The articulating wires may be replaced by the field operator should they be damaged. All other fiberscopes must be returned to the manufacturer for a rebuild, often costing thousands of dollars and resulting in lost evidence. The Kingsville fiberscope is the only one of its kind, and is capable of producing a high-resolution image through the tire valve stem, with the objective of looking inside a vehicles tire in a non-destructive fashion.

6. **Reasons why my department requires these unique features and what benefit will accrue to the county:** The Criminal Enforcement Unit is a narcotics unit assigned to the Special Investigations Bureau (SIB). Its primary function is criminal interdiction on the roadways of Riverside County. Many narcotics and bulk currency smugglers have employed various techniques in compartmentalizing these items from general detection. The work done by the deputies assigned to this unit require them to extensively search vehicles for this contraband. In the calendar year of 2011, the Criminal Enforcement Unit seized over 1.1 million dollars in the performance of their duties on the Riverside County roadways.
7. **Price Reasonableness including purchase price and any ongoing maintenance or ancillary costs from the supplier:** SAS has offered the Sheriff's Department a quantity discount of over 14.3%. Its regular price for a fiberscope, the complete kit and the tire scope with sales tax and shipping is \$20,069. The unit price to the Sheriff with tax and free shipping is \$17,550. The total cost for four scopes is \$70,200.

Diagnosis of a broken unit is free. It is unknown what costs would be incurred for repairs until a diagnosis is performed.

Revenue from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant program has already been approved by the HIDTA Board for the purchase, so no net County cost will be incurred.

The Department is also proposing an annual expense authorization with SAS R & D for scope maintenance and repairs.

8. **Does moving forward on this product or service further obligate the county to future similar contractual arrangements or any ongoing costs affiliated with this sole source?** No
9. **Period of Performance:** SAS will provide maintenance and necessary repairs for a five-year period.



Chief Deputy Signature

03/14/13

Date



Department Head Signature

3/14/13

Date

Purchasing Department Comments:

Approve

Approve with Condition/s

Disapprove

Not to exceed: \$ 70,200

One time

Annual Amount through

\$5,000

8/30/2016

M. K. [Signature]
Purchasing Agent

8-13-13
Date

13-374
Approval Number
(Reference on Purchasing Documents)