

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2

**SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR
FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY SERVICES FROM BIO-TOX LABORATORIES
INCORPORATED (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County Sheriff's Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) receives over 3,000 requests annually from law enforcement agencies throughout San Diego County for forensic toxicology services, or for testing of controlled substances in the blood or urine of criminal offenders. The test results are a crucial tool to criminal investigations and are essential in the prosecution of the offenders.

The Crime Lab is in the process of establishing an in-house toxicology program, which will help advance the standardization of toxicology practices and will decrease the amount of toxicology services outsourced to a third-party laboratory. The in-house toxicology program is estimated to go live by the end of 2025. While the Crime Lab is in the process of implementing this in-house drug testing program, its scope will not include analysis for all types of substances. Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated (Bio-Tox) will continue to provide testing for drugs that fall outside the capabilities of the internal program. Additionally, Bio-Tox offers expert testimony services that are critical to supporting legal proceedings. The Crime Lab previously contracted these services to Bio-Tox until the contract expired on December 31, 2024.

Today's request is to authorize the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to establish a new contract with Bio-Tox for one year, with four option years and a six-month extension if needed, subject to the availability of funds, and to amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
SHERIFF**

In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated and subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for toxicology testing services for up to one year and four option periods and an additional six months if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Toxicology testing benefits the residents in San Diego County, especially victims of crimes where there is suspected use or presence of drugs. Necessary and timely toxicology testing ensures the accountability of offenders and allows for the deliverance of justice on behalf of the victims. The ability to test for drugs and substances as well as interpret the results in court cases is critical in the prosecution of cases. Successful prosecution is a step in bringing healing for the victims of crimes, many of whom have likely been impacted by inequities and inequalities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's action supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access for victims of crimes and those who may have been wrongfully accused of a crime. Continuing the contract with Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated ensures full access to comprehensive toxicology testing which benefits everyone.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in estimated current year costs of \$760,000. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. Costs for each of the four optional years, if exercised, are estimated at \$700,000 (Fiscal Year 2026-27), \$600,000 (Fiscal Year 2027-28), \$400,000 (Fiscal Year 2028-29), and \$300,000 (Fiscal Year 2029-30). A reduction in annual costs will begin in year two moving forward as the services would be reduced, for a maximum total contract cost of \$4,215,486. Annual costs for each option year, if exercised, will be included in future Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Office. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

