



San Bernardino County

Legislation Text

File #: 5536, Agenda Item #: 58

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AND RECORD OF ACTION

February 8, 2022

FROM

SHANNON D. DICUS, Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator

SUBJECT

Employment Contract with Dr. Scott Luzi to Provide Forensic Pathology Services

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approve Employment Contract with Dr. Scott Luzi to provide services as a part-time Forensic Pathologist effective February 14, 2022 through February 13, 2025, for an estimated annual cost of \$164,425 (Salary - \$156,000, Benefits - \$8,425).
2. Authorize the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, Undersheriff, or Assistant Sheriff to execute amendments to the contract to extend the contract term for a maximum of two successive one-year periods, on behalf of the County, subject to County Counsel review.
3. Direct the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, Undersheriff, or Assistant Sheriff to transmit all amendments in relation to the contracts to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of execution.

(Presenter: John Ades, Deputy Chief, 387-3760)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Operate in a Fiscally-Responsible and Business-Like Manner.

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will not result in the use of additional Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). This position is assigned to the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator (Department), Coroner's Division and the estimated annual cost is \$164,425 (Salary - \$156,000, Benefits - \$8,425). Sufficient appropriation is included in the Department's 2021-22 budget and will be included in future recommended budgets.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with the provisions in Title 3, Division 2, Part 3, Chapter 10 of the California Government Code (§27491 et seq.), the Coroner of San Bernardino County may at his discretion, cause a postmortem pathological examination or autopsy to be made on the bodies of persons who die in the County, when an inquiry is necessary under the provisions of law to determine the cause of death.

On February 13, 2018 (Item No. 68), the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved employment contract No. 18-63 with Dr. Scott Luzi to provide services as a part-time Forensic Pathologist for the period of February 14, 2018 through February 13, 2021, with two one-year options to extend the contract term. On December 18,

2020, the Department exercised the first of the two options to extend the contract term by one year, with County Counsel's review and approval, through February 13, 2022.

Given the demanding caseload of the Coroner's Division, the Department recommends a new employment contract with Dr. Luzi to continue to provide services as a part-time Forensic Pathologist for the period of February 14, 2022 through February 13, 2025, with the option to extend the term of the contract for two additional one-year periods, subject to County Counsel review. The proposed new contract will provide an updated scope of work and rates for services to be provided by Dr. Luzi. Approval of the contract will allow for supplemental pathologist services to reduce or avoid delays in service to decedent's families or adverse effects impacting the timely disposition of felony criminal cases and the resolution of civil litigation.

Either party may terminate the contract at any time without cause with 14-days' advance written notice to the other party. The contract may be terminated for just cause immediately by the County. The employment contract stipulates that Dr. Luzi will only receive the minimum legally required benefits.

PROCUREMENT

The recommendation to approve a new employment contract with Dr. Luzi is based on his past performance as a part-time Forensic Pathologist, as well as his skills and experience meeting the requirements of this position.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Cynthia O'Neill, Principal Assistant County Counsel, 387-5455) on January 13, 2022; Human Resources (Gina King, Division Chief, 387-5571) on January 13, 2022; Finance (Carolina Mendoza, Administrative Analyst, 387-0294) on January 18, 2022; and County Finance and Administration (Robert Saldana, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on January 20, 2022.