



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Superior Court
Department No.: 025
For Agenda Of: October 7, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Darrel E. Parker 614-6594
Director(s)
Contact Info: Casie E. Hill 882-4682, Richard Morgantini 568-3551
SUBJECT: Contract for Provision of Conflict Defense Services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Master Contract for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents with North County Defense Team and the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Santa Barbara for an extension for the provision of conflict defense (alternate Public Defender) services in the North County Superior Court for the period of October 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014 for the amount of \$71,748.02 per month.

Summary Text:

The provision of defense counsel for indigent defendants is required under the Constitution, decisional law, and Penal Code section 987. Further, Penal Code section 987.2(b) provides that such services may be provided by a contract with one or more responsible attorneys.

Background: The current contract for the provision of conflict defense services in the North County courts expires September 30, 2014. The contract needs to be extended to continue to provide these legally mandated services during the finalization of the new contract.

Under the contract system, a consortium of attorneys handles various defense cases in which the Public Defender cannot legally represent the defendant because of a conflict of interest. (These cases are actual legal conflicts and are distinguished from cases in which the Public Defender has declined representation for budgetary reasons). This primarily occurs in multiple defendant cases in which the Public Defender may legally only represent one defendant. The contractor is required to represent up to five (5) co-defendants in a given conflict case. Secondary conflicts are avoided because the various attorneys in the consortium are in separate law firms and economies of scale are achieved.

The contract method of providing conflict defense services has resulted in tremendous cost savings since its inception in 1983 in Santa Barbara County compared to the former method of compensating counsel on an hourly basis for each case handled. The court and county have established contracts, which essentially require the provision of such services on a “flat fee for all case basis”.

The Superior Court has been very satisfied with the quality of service provided by North County Defense Team and wishes to extend the contract for one (1) month during the finalization of the new contract.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The cost for the provision of such services in FY 2014-15 is \$71,748.02 per month for one (1) month until the new contract can be finalized. The total cost of this extension is \$71,748.02. There are no facilities impacts.

Key Contract Risks:

The risk factors in this one (1) month contract extension are relatively low. There is a risk of increased costs when there are more than five (5) defendants in a case where it is needed to hire additional attorneys above and beyond this contract. An additional financial risk is when extreme circumstances arise with justifiable extraordinary expenses due to prolonged capital felony cases, change of venue, mass arrests, multiple defendant cases, changes in the law, and in any non-capital homicide case where the NCDT incurs expenses in excess of \$10,000 for experts and investigative fees.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a signed original to Casie E. Hill, Superior Court Chief Financial Officer.

Please provide copies of the minute order to: Casie E. Hill, Superior Court Chief Financial Officer and to Richard Morgantini, County Administrative Analyst, upon adoption.

Attachments:

Amendment No. 2

Amendment No. 1

Board Contract Summary

Master Contract for Legal Representation of Eligible Indigents

Authored by:

Darrel E. Parker, Superior Court Executive Officer

cc:

Richard Morgantini, County Executive Office