

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 1/29/04
Department Name: Sheriff-Corner
Department No.: 032
Agenda Date: 2/17/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: James Anderson, Sheriff-Coroner
Sheriff's Department/Coroners Office

STAFF CONTACT: Lieutenant Gary Kitzmann
681-4150

SUBJECT: Agreement for services of Independent Contractor, Forensic Pathology services

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and execute an agreement between Fred B. Walker M.D. – Forensic Pathology, for specific pathology and professional services to the Coroner's Office for the period of December 15, 2003 through December 15, 2004 with 2 automatic one-year extensions, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$33,000.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 – Ensure Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

A five (5) year contract with J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. had previously been approved for FY 98/99, 99/00, 00/01, 01/02, and 02/03. On 11-10-02, J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. terminated their contract with the Sheriff-Corner because they could no longer provide a Forensic Pathologist. On 11-11-02, the Sheriff-Coroner hired its own Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Robert Anthony. The Sheriff-Coroner is now seeking to obtain a contract with Fred B. Walker M.D. – Forensic Pathologist, to provide forensic pathology services in the event the Sheriff's Pathologist is absent due to illness, vacation or some other event.

A contract with Fred B. Walker M.D. is necessary to continue uninterrupted medical pathology and professional services required by the Coroner's Office in order to perform the duties of the Coroner as enumerated in Section 27491 et seq, California Government Code and 102860 Health and Safety Code.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The coroner is required to investigate certain deaths enumerated in Section 27491, California Government Code and Section 102860, Health and Safety Code. Section 27491.5, California Government code requires that "The cause of death appearing on a certificate of death signed by the coroner shall be in conformity with facts ascertained from inquiry, autopsy and other scientific findings." A pathologist or board certified forensic pathologist is required for the proper completion of such inquiry, autopsy or other scientific examination in order to comply with that legal mandate.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The funds for FY 03/04 were included in the current budget; therefore, no budget revisions for the remainder of this FY will be required. Since medical expenses and workers compensation costs continue to increase, this agreement will establish a set schedule of increased compensation limits over the next three years. The referenced contract will renew yearly and expire at the end of FY 05/06.

Fiscal Impact: FY 03/04 = \$10,000.00 FY 04/05 = \$11,000.00 FY 05/06 = \$12,000.00

Facilities Impact: None

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board; please return one copy of the executed contract to:

Sheriff-Coroner Department
Attention Business Office

And one copy to both:

Fred B. Walker M.D.
P.O. Box 2518
Avila Beach, Ca. 93424-2518

Concurrence:
Risk Management
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel