Washoe County Crime Lab Fee Review and Analysis

May 12th Commission Meeting
## What is funded through the Crime Lab Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B</th>
<th>Non-Contract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Substances</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms/Toolmark Exam</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent Print Processing</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent Print Comparison</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Examination</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA Analysis</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Investigation Services (FIS)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>$350/hour/investigator (min. two)</td>
<td>$350/hour/investigator (min. two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Lab</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>$25/CD</td>
<td>$25/CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxicology</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
<td>Per Test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Forensic Services Exclusions:** DNA analysis of skeletal remains, weapons violations, possession of stolen or found property, vandalism, controlled substances, and larceny/Trace evidence analysis/Latent print processing or DNA analysis of fired cartridge casings

**Other Funding:** Breath-Alcohol Program; DNA analysis of convicted offenders and arrestees; IBIS/NIBIN included for all agencies
**Total Crime Lab Costs**

- Crime Lab fees are historically based on the previous year’s adjusted budget (e.g., FY21 fees based on FY20 Adjusted Budget)
- Additional costs not historically included in fees are:
  - Sheriff’s Office overhead
  - County Central Services cost allocation

**Crime Lab Costs**

**FY20 Adjusted Budget and Overhead Allocations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Element</th>
<th>Non-FIS</th>
<th>FIS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Dept. Costs</td>
<td>$4,467,558</td>
<td>$860,202</td>
<td>$5,327,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Overhead</td>
<td>$79,126</td>
<td>$15,235</td>
<td>$94,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Central Services</td>
<td>$37,586</td>
<td>$7,237</td>
<td>$44,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,584,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>$882,675</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,466,945</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Total Budget**

- 83.9%
- 16.1%
- 100.0%
The Current fee-setting process is illustrated below:

- **Determine Budget**
  - Mid-Year Budget for following contract year
  - Update with known data (e.g., new staff)

- **Share of Submissions**
  - Determine each agency’s share of submission over most recent 3-year period

- **Allocate Cost to Agencies**
  - Allocate costs to all agencies (Option A) based on share of submissions
  - Reduce cost for non-FIS services (Option B)

- **Request Contract Commitments**
  - Request sent in spring preceding contract year
  - Most contracts in place prior to July 1st

* Minimum contract amount of $3,000 for Option A and $1,500 for Option B
“Submissions” are requests for lab work or services

Individual cases may have multiple submissions

Over the last three years, 70% of the Crime Lab’s submissions were from Reno (37%), Sparks (17%), Washoe Co. (16%)
Over the last two years, FIS submissions were dominated by Reno (47%), Washoe Co. (28%), and Sparks (12.3%)

FIS services are the difference between an “Option A” or “Option B” contract
The FY20 budget allocated for FY21 Crime Lab fees is $5.3M

Allocation of Fees for FY21

- Option A Agencies: $371,261
- Sparks Option A Pmt.: $539,500
- County Funded: $973,461
- Option B Agencies: $339,949
- State Contract: $291,760
- Reno: $1,944,517
- WCSO: $854,296
- Other: $13,016

Loss due to Option B: $183,049
Loss due to Non-Contract: $282,282
Federal EXCHANGE: $32,284
State Contract (Less Payment): $93,170
BLM: $3,311
Other: $51,324
Washoe County Funding For Non-County Expenses ($973,461)
Crime Lab Fee Goals

1. Fairly allocate cost of services to agencies served
2. Eliminate County subsidy of voluntary services to outside agencies
3. Maintain state-of-the-art facility and services to produce the highest quality of evidence for use in identification and prosecution of crime
Fee Changes In Process or In Place

- Elimination of Sparks fee discount (in FY21)
- Evaluation of dispatch services trade for services with Reno (ongoing)
- Elimination of all “per test” or pay-as-you-go services—including optional FIS services for Option B contracts (in FY21)
- Lowering Option B FIS cost reduction from 35% to 20%
- Reducing costs in FIS by shifting to non-sworn personnel (already implemented)
- Addition of OPEB costs to fee amounts (already implemented)
Recommendations to capture full cost of services

1. Include overhead costs in service-cost allocation. Increases total fees by 2.5%

2. Begin shifting capital replacement set-aside into cost recovery

Based on current allocation inequities, the County may need to implement full capture of overhead and capital replacement costs over the course of several years. The allocation calculation, however, should be made...
Major Targeted Recommendations

1. **Eliminate service-trade disparity with Reno**—could result in re-negotiation or elimination of 1990 services agreement

2. **Require Sparks to pay full contract cost**—in process

3. **Reduce County subsidy of non-contract agencies**—may increase costs to current contracts

4. **Reduce subsidy of Option B agencies**—May require separate allocation of FIS and other submission costs

5. **Reduce subsidy of State contract**
Impact of Implementing Recommendations

Implementing the report recommendations will result in increases in payment of Crime Lab costs for most agencies, but a reduction of subsidy for the County.

Overall Impact on Crime Lab Fees with Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Washoe County</th>
<th>Reno Trade</th>
<th>Sparks</th>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B</th>
<th>Non-Contract</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Crime Lab Payments</td>
<td>After Implementation</td>
<td>Option A costs could increase with shift in FIS cos allocation</td>
<td>Reallocated to other Crime Lab Customers—increase of 6.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Crime Lab Payments</th>
<th>After Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Questions?