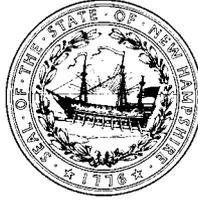


**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOSEPH A. FOSTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ANN M. RICE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Rice*

November 23, 2016

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Justice to enter into a subgrant with the New Hampshire Department of Safety (Vendor #177878), in the amount of \$100,000 from Fiscal Year 2017 State Drug Forfeiture funds for the purchase of a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer for the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Crime Lab upon the approval of Governor and Executive Council approval to June 30, 2017. 100% State Drug Forfeiture Funds.

Funding is available in account # 02-20-20-200010-8500-073-500582 Department of Justice, Drug Forfeiture Fund.

EXPLANATION

The Department is seeking authorization to grant \$100,000 to the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Crime Lab. These funds are intended for the purchase of a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) which can analyze complex mixtures of illicit drug compounds in an automated fashion. The purchase of this instrument will support efficiencies in the lab by increasing the number of samples that can be analyzed at once.

Currently, the Controlled Drug Section of the State Police Forensic Crime Lab is facing a major case backlog due to an increase in demand for analysis. The backlog impedes criminal prosecutions. Adding another automated GC/MS would enable laboratory staff to process additional samples around the clock expediting drug analysis, and lowering the backlog of cases.

In the event that drug forfeiture funds become no longer available, general funds will not be requested to support this program.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this request. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



ja Joseph A. Foster
Attorney General

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Interagency Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) is a duly constituted agency of the State of New Hampshire;

WHEREAS, the Department of Safety (“DOS”) is a duly constituted agency of the State of New Hampshire;

WHEREAS, pursuant to RSA 318-B:17-c, the DOJ maintains a revolving drug forfeiture funds, which is to be used to pay costs of drug related investigations:

WHEREAS, pursuant to RSA 21-P:7, I(e), the Division of State Police, DOS, is responsible for conducting the analysis of suspected controlled drugs seized in the courts of criminal investigations;

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire is in the midst of an opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the Controlled Drug Section of the State Police Forensic Laboratory (“Laboratory”) is currently averaging approximately 750 case submissions per month for drug analysis, and approximately 550 case completions per month, resulting in a current backlog of more than 3600 cases.

WHEREAS, the backlog impedes criminal justice investigations and prosecutions;

WHEREAS, the DOS desires to purchase an additional gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer instrument (“GC/MS) with an autosampler carousel, considered the workhorse of the Laboratory. The acquisition would enable Laboratory staff to process additional controlled drug samples around the clock, including weekends.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to their mutual benefit, the benefit of the State and in furtherance of statutory authority and objectives:

Upon the approval of the Governor and Executive Council, the Department of Justice will grant the Department of Safety \$100,000.00 of drug forfeiture funds for the purchase of a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer instrument with autosampler carousel;

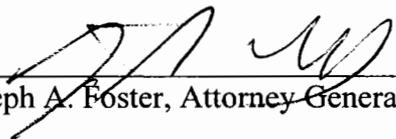
The Department of Safety will provide the Department of Justice proof of purchase.

For calendar year 2017 and 2018, the Department of Safety will provide to the Department of Justice quarterly reports relating to the Laboratory’s Controlled Drug

Section on the following: the number of case submissions and case completions per month, the backlog at month's end, and the percentage of drug types analyzed.

All obligations hereunder are contingent upon the availability of funds. The Department of Justice shall not be required to transfer funds from any other account in the event that funds are reduced or unavailable.

For the Department of Justice:

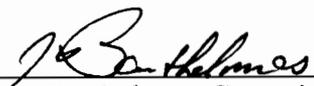


Joseph A. Foster, Attorney General

11/22/16

Date

For the Department of Safety:



John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

11/21/16

Date