

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 23, 2020
8.9

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ANALYSIS LABORATORY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE
PLAN NO. 23

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the Narcotics Analysis Laboratory Trust Fund Expenditure (NALTF) Plan No. 23. The Expenditure Plan includes funding in the amount of \$110,000 that will be used to pay for specialized analysis of evidence samples for drugs of abuse and casework overtime for the Forensic Science Division (FSD).

1. That the Board TRANSMIT the NALTF Expenditure Plan No. 23 to the Mayor and the Los Angeles City Council for approval.
2. That the Board AUTHORIZE the City Controller's Office to establish appropriation accounts within Fund 863 Department 70 as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
TBD	Toxicology Analyses	\$10,000.00
TBD	Casework Overtime	\$100,000.00

3. That the Board AUTHORIZE the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to prepare City Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and AUTHORIZE and INSTRUCT the City Controller to implement the instructions.
4. AUTHORIZE the Controller to increase appropriations as needed from Fund 863/70, Account to be determined, to Fund 100/70, General Overtime Account No. 001090, by an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

DISCUSSION

Section 11372.5 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that a \$50 fee shall be collected from every person for each narcotics offense for which they are convicted. The intent of the law is to reimburse law enforcement agencies for costs associated with the chemical analysis of controlled substances and the operation of their criminalistics laboratories.

The City of Los Angeles (City) has established the Narcotics Analysis Laboratory Trust Fund to receive, administer and disburse funds that are collected by the courts and forwarded to the City pursuant to this legislation. The City ordinance that established the fund requires that the Los Angeles City Council approve an expenditure plan prior to actual disbursement of funds.

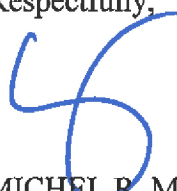
The overtime and testing to be purchased includes the following items:

OVERTIME, ANALYSIS AND TESTING ITEMS	COST
Toxicology analyses of blood and urine samples for drugs of abuse	\$ 10,000.00
Narcotics Casework Overtime	\$ 100,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 110,000.00

A fact sheet describing these items in detail is attached.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please have a member of your staff contact Forensic Science Division Commanding Officer Jeffrey A. Thompson at (323) 415-8100.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *September 29, 2000*
Secretary *Marie L...*

Attachments

REVISED
FACT SHEET
6-4-20

SHEET

LABORATORY TRUST FUND
AN 23 REQUEST
22, 2020

Background

Forensic Science Division (FSD) requests that funds in the Narcotics Analysis Laboratory Trust Fund (NALTF) be used to provide the following items:

Toxicology and Narcotics Analyses

\$10,000 is requested to pay for the drug testing of blood and urine samples in the FSD, Toxicology Unit (TOX) and for solid sample analysis of synthetic cannabinoids, Cathinone, and miscellaneous synthetic drugs in the Narcotics Analysis Unit (NAU)

The FSD TOX Unit continues to develop more test methods, thereby reducing the total number of blood and urine evidence samples processed by outside laboratories. In 2019, NALTF funds paid approximately \$10,320 for toxicology analysis, a 14% decrease from 2018.

In addition, the FSD NAU is expected to receive an increase in requests for the quantitative analysis of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on plant material. As a result, the NAU plans to develop a test method that will be online by the end of 2020. This quantitative test, to show that “dried flowering tops” of the cannabis plant contain greater than 0.3% THC, is necessary to refute potentially false claims of legal “hemp” cultivation. While the NAU implements the test method, cases will be outsourced to an accredited laboratory to complete a comprehensive analysis.

However, due to anticipated Department wide civilian furloughs resulting in a 10% reduction in hours, the NAU and TOX will need to rely on an increase in NALTF funds for outsourcing to keep up with the demand. An allocation of \$5,000 from NALTF Spending Plan 22 is currently being used to pay for analyses by outside Laboratories for both TOX and NAU.

Narcotics Casework Overtime Fund

\$100,000 is requested for overtime to compensate NAU and TOX employees to complete casework devoted to narcotics evidence analysis and to compensate the Hazardous Chemical Team (HCT) members for field response and related analyses.

The primary task of the NAU, TOX and HCT is to analyze a large volume of narcotics evidence seized from drug offenders (and related testing) and prepare laboratory reports with conclusions for District and City Attorneys. With fluctuations in casework expected in the next fiscal year

FACT SHEET

NARCOTICS ANALYSIS LABORATORY TRUST FUND SPENDING PLAN 23 REQUEST

May 22, 2020

and an anticipated 10% reduction in working hours through furloughs, a portion of this work must be completed on overtime and as a result the request for funding has been increased for this plan.

For perspective, the NAU's 20 full time employees analyzed a total of 6494 requests in 2019; a 10% reduction of the FSD working hours will result in a loss of two full time equivalents (FTEs). The TOX Unit has 15 personnel assigned and completed 5176 requests in 2019 but is anticipated to lose 1.5 FTEs. Lastly, the six-member HCT will suffer a .6 FTE loss, bringing the total anticipated FTE losses in the three assignments (TOX, NAU, and HCT) to just over four personnel.

An allocation of \$65,000 from NALTF Spending Plan 22 is currently being used to pay for both casework overtime in the NAU and field response for the HCT. Use of these funds is tracked and managed by FSD staff.

Training, Travel and Subscriptions

Due to travel and training restrictions during 2020, no additional funding is requested for attendance at courses and subscriptions for continuing education, training, and development of scientific staff. The previous allocations of \$110,000 from NALTF Spending Plan 22 and \$53,000 from Plan 21 are currently being used to pay for training, travel and subscriptions.

NARCOTICS ANALYSIS LABORATORY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN NO. 23
LIST OF TRAINING ATTENDED – JULY 2019 THROUGH JUNE 2020
May 22, 2020

Courses are required to maintain national laboratory accreditation with the ANSI National Accreditation Board, to be up to date with new methods, procedures and technology, and/or to maintain expertise. The following is a list courses attended by Forensic Science Division staff since the last NALTF expenditure request.

Course Title
Glock Armorer's Course
ASQDE 77th Annual Conference
Major Cities Chief Association Forensic Investigations Conference
2019 Skeletal Recovery Workshop
Serial Number Restoration Class
Advanced Fire Debris Analysis for the Forensic Chemist
Robert F. Borkestein Course on the Effects of Drugs on Human Performance and Behavior
Intoximeters EC/IR II Maintenance School
Fall 2019 CAC Seminar
Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners Annual Conference
Fall 2019 ASCLD Leadership Academy
AFQM Annual Training Conference
SWAFS 41st Annual Conference
Covert Methods of Entry
American Academy of Forensic Sciences 72nd Annual Meeting with Workshop

Forensic Science Division Subscriptions

May 22, 2020

Journal	Annual Cost
Forensic Policy & Management: An International Journal	\$700
Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners Journal (AFTE) Journal	\$170
Journal of Forensic Sciences (print & on-line)	\$800
Forensic Science Review	\$100
Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners	\$260
Journal of Analytical Toxicology	\$1300
Microscope	\$200 (3 years)
Forensic Science International: Genetics	\$1300
Other Forensic Science Journals	\$35 per on-line article (not to exceed 20/year)

*cost per year includes taxes and subscription; journal is print and on-line when available

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

BPC 20-0136

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2020

POLICE COMMISSION

June 12, 2020
8.9

TO: Chief of Police

FROM: Director, Office of Special Operations

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ANALYSIS LABORATORY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN 23

It is requested that the Chief of Police approve and transmit to the Board of Police Commissioners the Narcotics Analysis Laboratory Trust Fund (NALTF) Expenditure Plan 23. The expenditure plan totals \$110,000. Below is a description of each requested item. A fact sheet with a detailed description of each item is attached.

- **\$10,000** for the Toxicology Unit (TOX) and Narcotics Analysis Unit (NAU) analyses of samples for drugs of abuse outsourced to an appropriate laboratory.
- **\$100,000** for casework overtime to be used in the Forensic Science Division (FSD) for field response and analyses of narcotics and toxicology cases.

Section 11372.5 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that every person who is convicted of narcotics offense(s) shall pay a laboratory analysis fee of \$50 for each narcotics offense. The City has established the NALTF to receive, administer and disburse funds that are collected by the courts and forwarded to the City pursuant to this legislation. The City ordinance that established the fund requires that the City Council approve an expenditure plan prior to actual disbursement of funds.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Forensic Science Division, Commanding Officer Jeffrey A. Thompson, at (323) 415-8110.


HORACE E. FRANK, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Special Operations

Attachments

AGENDA DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

OPEN SESSION

4B

DEPARTMENT'S REPORT, dated June 12, 2020, relative to the Narcotics Analysis Laboratory Trust Fund Expenditure Plan 23, as set forth. [\[BPC #20-0136\]](#)

Recommendation(s) for Board action:

APPROVE the Department's report and TRANSMIT concurrently to the Mayor and City Council.

Commissioner Decker moved, seconded by Commissioner Soboroff to APPROVE the Department's report.

Unanimously adopted 5/0.