

Crime Laboratory Equipment Replacement

FY2009 Request: \$100,000
Reference No: 45325

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide

Project Type: Equipment
Contact: Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services
Contact Phone: (907)465-5488

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project would replace aging and outdated scientific testing equipment at the Scientific Crime Laboratory.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$100,000						\$100,000
Total:	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None.

Project Description/Justification:

In order to perform the necessary analyses, the laboratory uses highly sophisticated and expensive scientific instruments (genetic analyzers, mass spectrometers). To ensure an uninterrupted and consistent level of service, the laboratory must plan to replace aging and outdated scientific instruments. The typical lifespan of scientific instruments is five to ten years, after which time manufacturers no longer provide support in the form of replacement parts and software updates. In order to meet the mission of entering profiles into CODIS and solving "no suspect" crimes, it is necessary to ensure that the laboratory has a stable capital equipment replacement program. This request is intended as the first of annual requests for ongoing laboratory equipment replacement. This project will provide funding for the following types of equipment; however other types of equipment may be purchased if it is deemed more mission critical than these items at the time of purchase.

The laboratory's existing ballistics comparison microscope is 21 years old (serial number 2). This microscope is the scientific instrument used to perform all firearms and tool mark comparisons by two examiners. A new microscope will allow for the use of higher quality optics and lighting, which can ultimately lead to faster identifications and increased casework capacity. Additionally, the new comparison microscopes have the ability to digitally capture images seen by the forensic scientists, documenting areas of agreement utilized in identification, providing an increase in documentation for court purposes. The cost for this microscope is \$100,000.

Two mass spectrometers currently being used in the laboratory are from five to ten years of age. It costs \$80,000 to replace one. A genetic analyzer costs \$100,000 to replace, and the laboratory has two that are also between five and ten years of age.