

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only	
Meeting Date / /	Held Until / /
Agenda Item No: _____	Agenda Item No: _____

Department: Sheriff-Coroner () **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact: Lt. O’Leary	Phone: (707) 565-1433	Board Date: 11/10/09	Deadline for Board Action:
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AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Agreement for Inmate Transportation Services

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Approve the Agreement for Inmate Transportation services with American Extradition Specialists, LLC, for the term of November 10, 2009 through November 12, 2012 and authorize the Sheriff to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County and any amendments/modifications to the Agreement that do not substantially alter the terms of the Agreement, upon approval of County Counsel.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD’L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ 60,000	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$
Amount Budgeted	\$ 60,000	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$
Other Avail Approp. (Explain below)	\$	Other Transfer(s) (Source:)	\$
Additional Requested:	\$	Add'l Funds Requested:	\$

Explanation (if required): Funding in the amount of \$60,000 is included in the Sheriff’s FY 09-10 adopted budget for inmate transport vendor services.

Prior Board Action(s):
 June 26, 2007 Agreements with TransCor America, Inc. and US Extradition Services approved by Board.
 June 29, 2004 Agreement with TransCor America, Inc. approved by Board.
 August 9, 2001 Agreement with TransCor America, Inc. approved by Board.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:
 Not executing this Agreement with American Extradition Specialists would result in the need for more inmate transports to be completed by deputies, which would increase costs for the County as well as potentially cause the Sheriff’s Office to miss mandated inmate transportation deadlines.

Background:

The Sheriff requests that the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign and execute the three-year non-exclusive Agreement for Inmate Transportation Services with American Extradition Specialists, LLC.

The Sheriff is required by sections 821 and 822 of the Penal Code to take custody of inmates wanted in Sonoma County and being held in other jurisdictions both in and out of California, and transport the individuals to the Sonoma County Detention Facility. We have historically used a combination of internal (deputy) and external (private vendor) resources to fulfill this obligation. It should be noted that over the last several fiscal years, the Sheriff's expenditures on inmate transports by vendors has decreased significantly due to our participation in Transportation of Prisoners in California (TOPIC), where all participating agencies work cooperatively to move inmates throughout the state to a central transfer location in Sacramento. This system reduces costs for all agencies involved. However, circumstances still exist that require the use of private vendors for inmate transportation, particularly for those transports requiring substantial deputy overtime hours. Two scenarios where the use of a vendor typically results in savings for the County are interstate extraditions and mental health commitments, which cannot be completed through TOPIC.

Sheriff's contract transportation expense is an annual operating cost in the Sheriff's budget. The budgeted expense is based on current contract rates, transport distances, and the estimated number of transports that can be more economically performed using a vendor versus Sheriff's Office sworn staff. Each year there are inmate transports that can be performed more cost effectively by vendor transport than by deputy sheriffs. For example, an inmate transport from a mental health facility in Los Angeles would cost approximately \$500 using a vendor and \$5,800 using Transportation Bureau deputy sheriffs. An inmate transport from Washington State performed by a vendor would cost approximately \$866, while it would cost over \$4,000 if performed by deputy sheriffs. There are times when circumstances will not allow for a vendor transport and deputy sheriffs are required regardless of the difference in expense. Each trip is evaluated based on many criteria including risk, Transportation Bureau workload, District Attorney's Office requirements, vendor availability and cost.

The Sheriff's Office released a request for proposal (RFP) for inmate transportation services in 2007. The process resulted in only two qualified vendors. Inmate transportation is a unique industry and not very many vendors exist. This is especially true in California where additional regulations and expenses are imposed on vendors. The Sheriff's Office currently has a non-exclusive contract with one of the 2007 RFP responding vendors, US Extradition Services (USES). The Board also approved a non-exclusive contract with the second responsive vendor, TransCor. In December of 2007, TransCor unexpectedly terminated their Agreement with the County.

Attachments:

On File With Clerk: Agreement for the Provision of Inmate Transportation Services with American Extradition Specialists, LLC

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (Continued):

While USES has in general been able to accommodate the Sheriff's Office needs, there has been a recent increase in circumstances where USES has not been available to meet our transportation needs within the very tight time frames mandated by the Penal Code (generally within ten days of notification by the holding agency). The Sheriff's Transportation Bureau Unit functions with a minimal staff. The Bureau is responsible for all inmate transportation needs with the bulk of the workload being in County transports between detention facilities and the Court House. Therefore, last minute moves requiring deputy labor typically result in additional deputy overtime costs and a disruption to daily operations for deputies, jail staff, and inmates.

The Sheriff's Transportation Bureau staff became aware of American Extradition Specialists from another law enforcement agency that is currently using them. Transportation staff contacted American Extradition Specialists and in consultation with County Counsel negotiated an additional non-exclusive contract. By establishing this agreement with American Extradition Specialists, the Sheriff will have additional flexibility in scheduling transports, continue to minimize County costs, as well as remain in compliance with mandated time frames.

The non-exclusive inmate transportation service agreements do not have a "not to exceed" clause. The payment section of the agreements is based on terms set forth in exhibits that outline the rate structure. The total cost of contract inmate transportation for FY 09-10 is expected to be within the amount included in the FY 09-10 adopted budget of \$60,000. Historically, the Sheriff's Office has never exceeded \$60,000 on vendor transports and does not expect to in FY 09-10 on any one of the two vendors. If circumstances change for any reason and it appears the \$60,000 threshold may be reached, the Sheriff commits to returning to your Board to seek additional budget authority.

Therefore, we request that the Board approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign and execute the three-year non-exclusive Agreement on behalf of the County and any amendments/modifications to the Agreement that do not substantially alter the terms of the Agreement, upon approval of County Counsel.