



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

February 8, 2023

Barry A. Burton, County Administrator
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

RE: BUDGET AMENDMENT
FY23 Handheld Narcotics Analyzer

Dear County Administrator Burton:

When deputy sheriffs seize drugs they are legally required to perform a chemical presumptive test to confirm that the drug is a controlled substance prior to making an arrest. This presumptive test is usually conducted on the street in an uncontrolled environment. We have experienced several incidents where deputies have been exposed to drugs, including the deadly drug Fentanyl, while conducting the chemical test. This is a serious officer safety issue as demonstrated by a recent incident where we had to administer Narcan to a deputy to reverse the potentially fatal effects of Fentanyl.

Upon researching alternatives to the traditional chemical presumptive test, we identified a product manufactured by Thermo Fisher Scientific called TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer. TruNarc is an electronic device that emits a laser beam through which the drugs are analyzed without human contact. TruNarc tests drugs in their original containers without deputies having to open the containers or touch the drugs.

Each TruNarc device normally costs \$32,000. To provide enough devices throughout our Patrol Operations Bureau, Narcotics Division, and the jail booking desk, we need 25 TruNarc analyzers. We have negotiated a price of \$25,000 per device based on a volume discount. I am requesting funding in the amount of \$625,000 as soon as possible so that we avoid deputies having to use the traditional presumptive tests with harmful consequences.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gualtieri", written over a white background.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County, Florida

BG:SEK/nmj