



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**C-10**

For the meeting of: November 15, 2016

Date: October 21, 2016  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: William Damiano, Chief Probation Officer  
Subject: Supplemental Budget in budget unit 235 for the purchase of Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Equipment and Staff Training (4/5 vote required)

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached supplemental budget in Probation's 235 budget unit for the purchase of Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) equipment and training for Probation staff (4/5 vote required)
2. Approve the creation of fixed asset line 1100-235-8487, in budget unit 235.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Probation Trust Funds 3782-000-808000

Prepared by Ellisha Hardison

CAO Approval

Cheryl Dillingham

REVIEW:

Auditor

MSM

County Counsel

Human Resources

Other

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Fennell, Bohn, Bass, Sundberg, Lovelace  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: November 15, 2016

By: Kathy Hayes

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

## DISCUSSION:

Humboldt County Probation until recently utilized a polygraph vendor for the completion of all background checks for incoming sworn staff during the hiring process. Unfortunately, the vendor was not local and when the company lost another contract, stopped traveling regularly to Humboldt County. It was not cost-effective to send all sworn applicants out of the area for polygraph so Humboldt County Probation began researching alternative options and came upon compelling information regarding Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA). CVSA technology records, quantifies and analyzes frequency changes in the human voice. During the examination the equipment identifies vocal stress related to specific questions. The identification of this vocal stress can be directly correlated to truth and deception. CVSA has a remarkably low error rate (less than 0.5%) and does not return inconclusive results. It is widely accepted to be more reliable than polygraphs.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) utilizes CVSA not only for their own background investigations but also in the course of investigative police work. Humboldt County Probation began contracting with HCSO in July to provide this service during background investigations. While the process worked well, due to the Sheriff's own demand on the equipment getting Probation applicants scheduled for CVSA appointments can be difficult. The cost of contracting for these CVSAs is also more than double the cost previously paid for polygraph services (\$125.00/polygraph vs. \$257.37 per CVSA). In order to offset the high cost of contracting these services going forward and to improve hiring turnaround time, Probation would like to invest in a CVSA notebook and training for select management staff to conduct these analysis interviews with applicants. The streamlining of the hiring and background process will mean shorter vacancies for Juvenile Corrections Officer and Probation Officer positions which aids your Board's strategic framework goal of creating opportunities for improved safety and health.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total cost of the notebook with digitized CVSA technology is \$9053 which comes with a four year Dell warranty and two complimentary new examiner training slots which can be utilized to certify staff anytime within the first year of purchase. In addition, Probation will be purchasing three more discounted new examiner student tuitions at \$495 each. These can be used to certify new examiners or re-certify existing examiners (required every two years) and have been discounted from \$1295. The total initial cost of this project is estimated to be \$10, 538. The funds will come from Probation trust funds and be expended in the 2016/17 fiscal year. There is no ongoing cost in years where examiners do not require re-certification and in years that do require recertification, the cost will be \$3885, or \$1295 for each examiner (every 2 years). The funds for the initial cost to purchase the notebook and student tuitions for three new examiners will come from the Probation trust fund 3782-000-808000 which has a current balance of \$790,998. Re-certification costs will be included in the budget in future years.

Probation contracted for a total of 26 polygraphs in 2015/16 which at the current Sheriff CVSA rate would translate to an approximate annual cost of \$6691.62. The initial cost of purchasing this equipment and training Probation management staff to conduct these examinations would directly offset this cost and being resulting in budgetary savings in approximately 18 months. This purchase meets the Board's Strategic Framework goal of managing resources to ensure sustainability of services.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Purchasing

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board may opt not to approve the attached supplemental budget for this purchase however it is not recommended. Without the purchase of this equipment and the corresponding staff training Humboldt County Probation will continue to contract these services out to the Sheriff at an increased cost and adding increased length to the already lengthy process of hiring sworn officers.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. NITV Federal Services LLC Sole Source Vendor
2. Cost Estimates for CVSA Notebook/Warranty/New Examiner Trainings
3. Supplemental Budget for budget unit 235





**FEDERAL SERVICES**

January 1, 2016

Dear Customer,

Please be advised that the National Institute for Truth Verification Federal Service (NFS) is the **Sole Source** for the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer II (CVSA<sup>®</sup> II) and its training programs.

NFS is the exclusive manufacturer/distributor of both the CVSA<sup>®</sup>/CVSA<sup>®</sup> II and has no US distributors. The CVSA II incorporates two US Patents: US Patent Number 7,321,855 "*Method for Quantifying Psychological Stress Levels Using Voice Pattern Samples*," and US Patent Number 7,571,101 "*Quantifying Psychological Stress Levels Using Voice Patterns*." NFS is the only Voice Stress Analysis (VSA) manufacturer holding patents for its VSA technologies. The FACT<sup>®</sup> Scoring System is only offered by NFS, and can precisely quantify stress in the human voice and evaluate CVSA examination charts as Deceptive or Non-Deceptive with an accuracy level greater than 98%. Additionally, the CVSA is an approved GSA item for all US Federal Agencies, has been approved by the US Federal Court System, and is used by approximately 2,000 US and International Law Enforcement Agencies as well as elements of the US Military and other US Federal Agencies.

For more information please visit our company website at [www.cvsal.com](http://www.cvsal.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James A. Kane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent.

James A. Kane  
Executive Director



NITV FEDERAL SERVICES, LLC

11400 Fortune Circle,  
West Palm Beach, FL 33414

Phone: 561-798-6280

E-mail: nitvfs@cvsa1.com

## Estimate

Date	Estimate No.
9/22/2016	3490

Humboldt County Probation Department  
Attn: Dir. Tim Toste  
2002 Harrison Ave.  
Eureka, CA 95501

Description	Qty	Rate	Total
CVSA® II Dell Latitude E5000 Model Series purchase- GSA Discount Included; Includes two (2) free student training slots (normally \$1295 each) and Dell 4-year Onsite Warranty ; Students Ray Watson and TBD to attend CVSA training April 24-28, 2017 in San Francisco, CA at Marin Co SO.	1	8,248.15	8,248.15
GSA contract # GS-07F-0114M MAS Schedules/SIN: 084/426 4N			
Processing Fees		82.48	82.48
California State Tax- Subject to change based on CA BOE; Humboldt Co Rate 8.75%		721.71	721.71
*** additional discounted training available for one year after purchase, Estimate #3491.			
This Estimate is good for 120 days. Please contact NFS to create an invoice. Thank you.		Total	\$9,052.34



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# Estimate

Date	Estimate No.
9/22/2016	3491

Humboldt County Probation Department  
Attn: Dir. Tim Toste  
2002 Harrison Ave.  
Eureka, CA 95501

Description	Qty	Rate	Total
*** revised training 10/3/2016			
CEC - Special- New examiner tuition discounted with CVSA Purchase and first New Examiner training slot at \$1295: \$495 per student, normally \$1295; limit <u>3</u> available; Students TBD to attend CVSA training location and date TBD. Can be held on credit for 2 Years. Optional, Non-taxable	1	495.00	495.00
***Humboldt Co Probation intends to send 1 New Examiner to training before April 2018 at the discounted rate of \$495.			
*** this training is tied to Estimate #3490			
Total			\$495.00

This Estimate is good for 120 days. Please contact NFS to create an invoice. Thank you.

x 3  
\$1485.00

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**FY 2016/17  
SUPPLEMENT BUDGET  
BUDGET UNIT PROBATION 235**

**REVENUES:**

1100-235-705800	Transfer from Trust	\$	10,538.00
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<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>		\$	<b>10,538.00</b>
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**EXPENDITURES:**

1100-235-2614	Staff Development & Training	\$	1,485.00
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1100-235-8487	Voice Stress Analyzer- Computer	\$	9,053.00
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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>		\$	<b>10,538.00</b>
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