



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:		Public Safety – Maine State Crime Lab	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Lt. Michael Zabarsky Alexander Gibson	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Agency Department Code:	16A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 16A 20260218*1741
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$150,000		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	3/1/2026	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 3/1/2028
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:		New End Date (if Applicable):
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	C/O JOYCE WILLIAMSON 9335 HWY 19 NORTH COLLINSVILLE, MS 39325 601-626-1100 JOYCE@RONSMITHANDASSOCIATES.COM		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Training of Noah Bucci in the Firearm-Toolmarks discipline		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. Higher Education Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

On August 4, 2025, the Crime Lab hired Noah Bucci to be the next firearm-toolmarks (FATM) examiner. The ATF National Firearms Examiner Academy (NFEA) did not accept anyone from Maine in their Fall 2025 program. As of March 2026, the Crime Lab will not have any certified examiners, due to medical leave. This means the section will halt all examinations and casework for the entire state of Maine. The lab must train Noah as quickly as possible to continue essential public safety operations and support. Ron Smith and Associates has helped our lab over the years with quality assurance investigations, unit assist seeking efficiencies and best practices for us, and advised the lab on industry standards in FATM and Latent Prints. RS&A is the only respected leader capable of providing nationally renowned forensic advice and support. RS&A is familiar with our operations and policies and is able to step in and provide ISO acceptable training, technical leader services for the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory, which may include full case examination, and continued verifications.

RS&A is an ISO/IEC 17025- and ISO/IEC 17043-accredited laboratory in Mississippi ready to assist us with these services. RS&A provides talented teams of firearms examiners who have all achieved board certifications in their respective disciplines through the Association of Firearms and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE). Every RS&A examiner has at least 10 years of experience and is court-qualified. For our specific needs, RS&A will work with Jared Ford, to work with Noah. Jared is the current technical leader in FATM in Arizona and is competent in all the disciplines essential for our unit.

RS&A personnel who will be conducting training, casework, or reviews on-site at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory will supply the Maine State Police with all requested information and documentation necessary to conduct a background check or security clearance, as desired by the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory. RS&A will also provide the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory with documentation of the relevant RS&A examiner(s)' competency and continued proficiency sufficient to comply with all ISO/IEC 17025 requirements for the use of contractors.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.

RS&A has provided onsite and remote services for our lab over many years. They are trusted industry leaders. There is no one else with their certification, accredited standards and ability to offer researching alternatives, there is no other vendor who can meet all of our needs, policies with similar accreditation standards.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The cost of goods is below those of other similar vendors but provides a package of services that cannot be met at the same cost. The typical rate is \$300 per hour, but the MSP Crime Lab will be charge at a rate of \$160 per hour.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

If additional vendors are identified in the future that can provide ISO-accredited training and case work services, the department will utilize the competitive bid process to obtain these services.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

- Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
- Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
- No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE


Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department’s signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine’s Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.


PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee

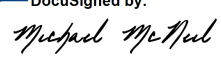
1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):	 Michael Sauschuck (Feb 18, 2026 13:21:37 EST)		
Typed Name:	Michael Sauschuck, Commissioner	Date:	2/5/2026

2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department’s Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner (or designee):	 Michael Sauschuck (Feb 18, 2026 13:21:37 EST)		
Typed Name:	Michael Sauschuck, Commissioner	Date:	2/5/2026

****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  7008796FB36A449...		
Typed Name:	Michael McNeil	Date:	3/16/2026






Ron Smith Training PJJ

Final Audit Report

2026-02-18

Created:	2026-02-18
By:	Alexander Gibson (Alexander.T.Gibson@maine.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAATr4J7W2BgcqkEeOtqly0i7RqTJX4NsVI

"Ron Smith Training PJJ" History

-  Document created by Alexander Gibson (Alexander.T.Gibson@maine.gov)
2026-02-18 - 6:15:52 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Michael Sauschuck (michael.sauschuck@maine.gov) for signature
2026-02-18 - 6:15:57 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Michael Sauschuck (michael.sauschuck@maine.gov)
2026-02-18 - 6:21:02 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Michael Sauschuck (michael.sauschuck@maine.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-02-18 - 6:21:37 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2026-02-18 - 6:21:37 PM GMT