The Largo Police Department (LPD) requests authorization to enter into a new FY 2019 agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), effective October 1, 2018, for latent print examination and forensic science specialist services, in the amount of $14,922.25. This will maintain the current level of service provided in the FY 2018 agreement and represents a decrease of $3,705.50 from FY 2018.

Several LPD officers are certified Evidence Technicians, trained to handle evidence collection and preservation for routine minor offenses. Handling major crime scenes, however, requires advanced expertise that cannot be developed without the frequent utilization of these skills. The incidence of major crime in the City of Largo is such that LPD personnel are not called upon frequently to conduct specialized forensic services. By contracting for this service with PCSO, LPD receives multiple highly-trained forensic science specialists to properly collect and preserve critical evidence in major cases and provide subsequent testimony in court.

Under the agreement with PCSO, latent fingerprints are submitted and evaluated for identification value by fingerprint examiners. Identification value is determined by the visibility and number of fingerprint characteristics. All latent prints of value are retained and fingerprint lifts with sufficient points of identification are submitted into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The system compares the latent print to the prints of all known subjects on file, and can identify potential offenders on a statewide basis.

A copy of the agreement has been sent to the City Commission electronically and posted to the City’s website.