

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
SOLE SOURCE ADVERTISEMENT

The Office of Financial Management contemplates awarding a sole source contract to Gregory S. LaBerge for an 8-month period to provide assistance in the organizational design of the Office of Independent Investigations.

The 2021 Legislature passed Governor-request legislation to create the Office of Independent Investigations (OII) to conduct investigations of police use of excessive force. The Office of Financial Management has established a project team to start up the new agency by July 1, 2022.

The OII will be the first statewide independent investigation agency in the nation.

The startup of the agency will require support from someone who can clearly identify critical needs and requirements of forensic disciplines, expert forensic assessment needs for notification and data tracking, and training related to forensic investigations and other specific topics. The OII Transition Team does not have access to any staff who can provide this level of expertise and support.

Greggory Laberge has served as a dedicated subject matter expert on several agency forensic development projects comparable to the OII. Mr. Laberge was essential to the creation of the first municipal crime laboratory in Denver, CO, and currently serves as its Forensics and Evidence Division Director. Additionally, he has worked as an ISO-17025 Laboratory Auditor seated with the Standards Council of Canada. As a result, he understands the unique technical forensic challenges that agencies comparable to OII experienced while operating within existing standards and stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

The statute authorizing the establishment of the OII requires the agency to start receiving cases beginning on July 1, 2022. The mechanics of setting up a 100+ FTE agency with multiple locations can take a year or more. In this case, the state must establish operations and procure a notification system and specialized data management system. The state must also obtain or develop training required by law for investigative team members, the advisory board, and administrative staff. Investigators must complete rigorous training before they can work on any cases. Based on similar law enforcement programs, the state expects this training to take up to four months. This means that an organization model must be developed, and investigators hired no later than March 2022.

Mr. Laberge has the expert, on-site experience and unique skillset the state needs to stand up of this new agency and meet the tight timelines specified in the enacted legislation.

The contract will be issued on or about October 21, 2021.

Vendors who believe they possess the same experience and capabilities and meet the same requirements as Gregory S. LaBerge are invited to submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state's requirements within five (5) business days of this announcement. In the absence of other qualified sources, it is the State's intent to make a sole source award of the contract.

For more information, contact:

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A copy of the contract can be obtained by emailing OFMpublicdisclosure@ofm.wa.gov. Please include the following in the Subject Line: Sole Source Contract #K03 (OII) Record Request.