EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1-31-07
HB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Crime Lab Request for a Toxicologist

Background

The Toxicology Section of the crime laboratory in Missoula:

- analyzes biological specimens submitted by law enforcement, corrections agencies, county coroners and forensic pathologists,
- aids in establishing the cause or circumstances of death in post-mortem investigations, and
- confirms the presence or absence of alcohol and/or drugs in corrections programs submissions and in DUI cases.

Workload

Since 1991, the Toxicology Section has experienced a huge increase in the number of case submissions. In 1991, for example, there were about 30 urinalysis cases submitted the entire year. In recent years, the lab has averaged more than 2,250 cases per year.

In addition, the types of cases the lab receives are more complex and much more time-consuming. Many cases involve more than one drug to be analyzed and quantified. Although the lab has acquired instrumentation that uses robotics and automation, the increased workload and the constant pressure to produce increases the likelihood of error.

The lab has established new quality assurance and quality control measures necessary for accreditation, and these new standards have increased the documentation that is required for each case.

Recently, an audit team from the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) noted that the laboratory desperately needs another FTE in order to maintain current workload.

Expenditure and Funding Summary

	FY 08	FY 09
FTE	1.0	1.0
Personal Services	$65,239	$65,239
Operating Expenses	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Total General Fund	**$68,739**	**$68,739**