

FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Medical Examiner

The Medical Examiner Department (ME) provides accurate, timely, dignified, compassionate, and professional death investigation services for the residents of Miami-Dade County. In addition, the Department provides education, consultation, and research for local and national medical, legal, academic, and law enforcement communities.

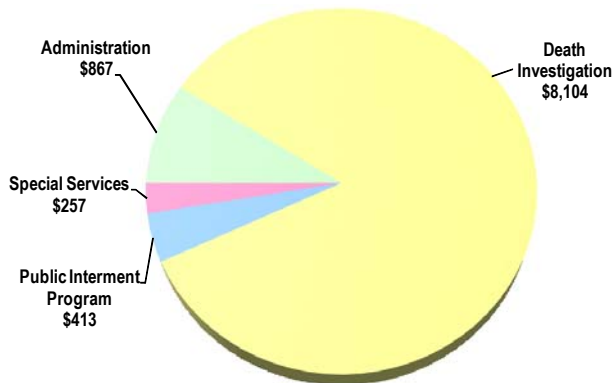
As part of the Public Safety strategic area, the Medical Examiner provides pathology, toxicology, records/transcription, morgue, photography, investigations, and public interment services; investigates and processes approximately 11,500 cases annually, which includes cremation approvals, autopsies, toxicology and pathology consultation cases, and facilitates bone and tissue donor cases. The Department focuses on what is generally called "forensic pathology," which combines the efforts of legal and police investigations with those of medicine and science to ascertain the facts surrounding deaths, particularly the cause and manner of deaths. The Medical Examiner also hosts annual seminars on death investigation, forensic imaging, anthropology, and odontology.

The Department interacts with the public, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the State Attorney, US Attorney, Public Defender, State Health Department, Center for Disease Control (CDC), local and state police departments, hospitals, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), funeral homes, and the media.

FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget

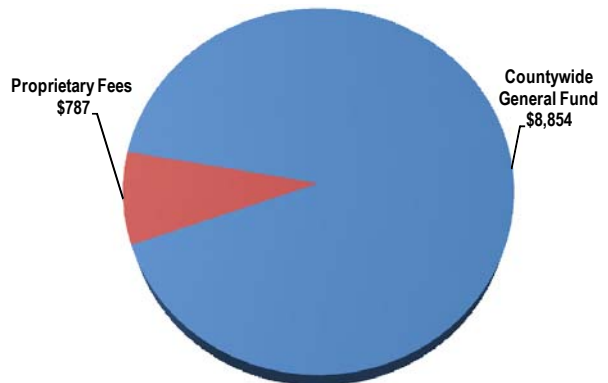
Expenditures by Activity

(dollars in thousands)



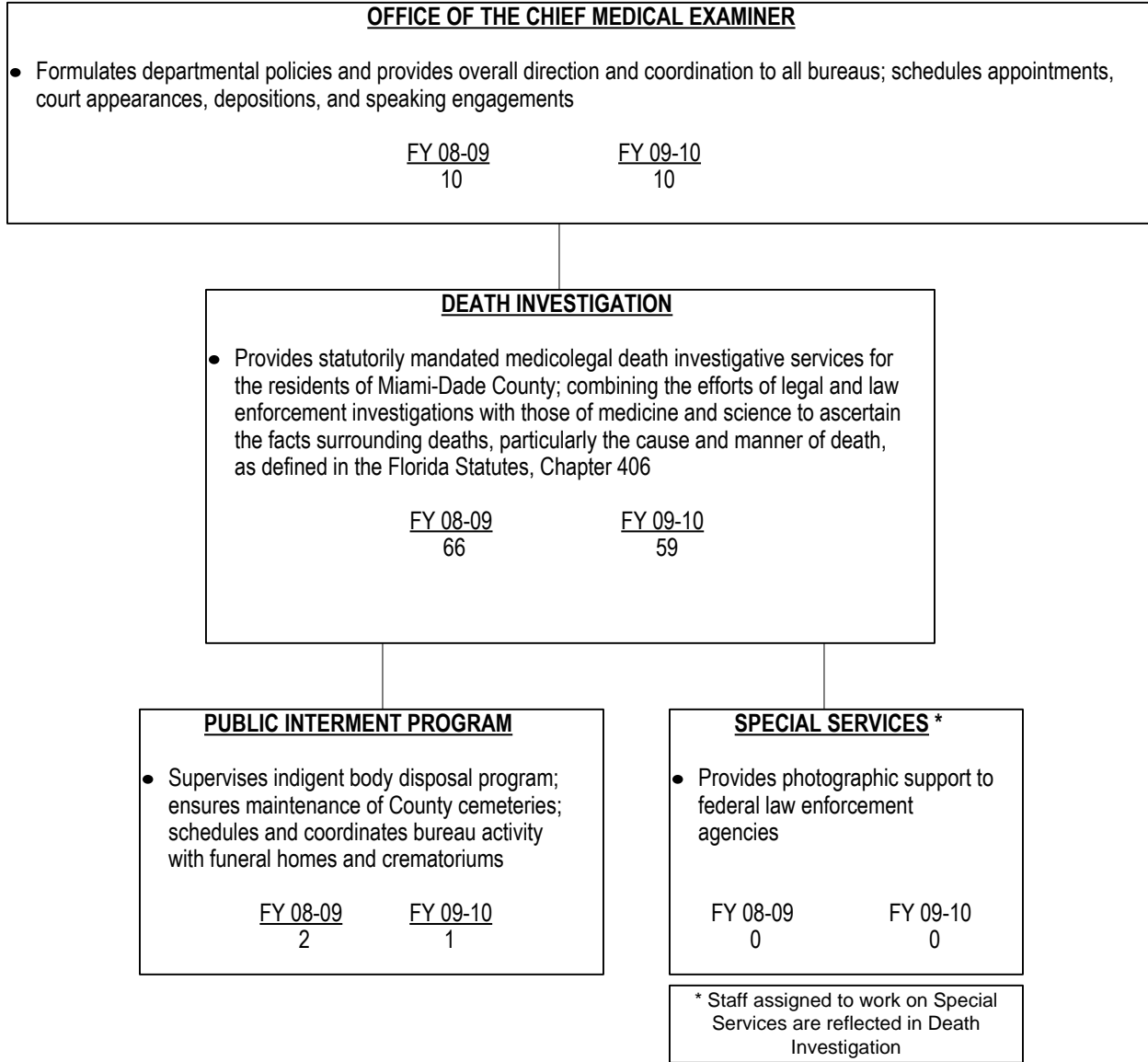
Revenues by Source

(dollars in thousands)



FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 07-08	Budget FY 08-09	Adopted FY 09-10
Revenue Summary			
General Fund Countywide	7,550	10,179	8,854
Interest Earnings	2	0	0
Other Revenues	190	94	89
Photographic Sales	21	12	12
Special Service Fees	63	55	55
Toxicology Testing	70	68	68
Carryover	780	234	257
Cremation Approval Fees	293	300	300
Forensic Imaging	48	6	6
Total Revenues	9,017	10,948	9,641
Operating Expenditures Summary			
Salary	4,935	6,297	5,290
Fringe Benefits	2,102	2,297	2,128
Other Operating	1,491	2,290	2,201
Capital	66	64	22
Total Operating Expenditures	8,594	10,948	9,641

(dollars in thousands)	Total Funding		Total Positions	
Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 08-09	Adopted FY 09-10	Budget FY 08-09	Adopted FY 09-10
Strategic Area: Public Safety				
Administration	1,550	867	10	10
Death Investigation	8,739	8,104	66	59
Public Interment Program	425	413	2	1
Special Services	234	257	0	0
Total Operating Expenditures	10,948	9,641	78	70

CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	PRIOR	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FUTURE	TOTAL
Revenue									
Capital Outlay Reserve	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Total:	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Expenditures									
Strategic Area: Public Safety									
Equipment Acquisition	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Total:	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	250

SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

Line Item Highlights	(dollars in thousands)				
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
Other Outside Contractual Services	52	58	88	80	90
Outside Maintenance	177	132	232	227	131
Travel	66	42	81	77	0
Indigent Interment (disposals)	216	232	244	251	282

FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

DIVISION: ADMINISTRATION

The Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for formulating departmental policies, overall direction and coordination to all divisions.

- Provides internal administrative support such as personnel administration, budget control, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing support functions, and computer services; maintains and tracks inventory
- Transcribes autopsy protocols; provides medical transcription services; provides secretarial services; and schedules appointments, court appearances, depositions, and speaking engagements
- Maintains all Department case files; tabulates information and prepares statistics and quarterly reports for use by professional staff and interested agencies; and forwards reports to requesting individuals, companies, and/or agencies
- Provides revenue-generating educational training programs in multiple forensic areas

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS AND BUDGET ENHANCEMENTS OR REDUCTIONS

- In FY 2009-10, the Department will continue to administer the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) toxicology services contract with the University of Miami; funding will be provided from the Countywide General Fund (\$438,000), the Miami-Dade Police Department (\$20,000), and the State Attorney's Office (\$250,000), for a total of \$708,000
- The Department will continue the administration of various training workshops (\$86,000), which provide educational opportunities to local and national medical, legal, academic, and law enforcement professionals

DIVISION: DEATH INVESTIGATION

The Death Investigation Division is responsible for providing statutorily mandated medicolegal death investigative services for the residents of Miami-Dade County, combining the efforts of legal and law enforcement investigations with those of medicine and science to ascertain the facts surrounding deaths, particularly the cause and manner of death, as defined in Florida Statutes, Chapter 406.

- Conducts all medical examinations and autopsies
- Provides and coordinates investigative services to medical examiners and maintains individual case files
- Provides laboratory services by performing chemical analysis on specimens submitted for examination, issues reports of findings, and provides interpretation of same; and testifies in court
- Responds to police and hospital calls to transport human remains and other items of evidentiary value
- Coordinates efforts of police, family, and funeral homes; receives and release bodies; performs functions to include X-ray examination, finger printing, and evidence documentation and preservation
- Provides photography services such as copy work, slide duplication, computer graphics, photomicrography, photomacrography, and audiovisual services
- Conducts preceptorship programs in the photography field and coordinates photography training and educational workshops for local and national medical, legal, academic and law enforcement communities
- Administers the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) toxicology services contract with the University of Miami
- Supervises indigent burial program
- Ensures maintenance of County cemeteries
- Schedules and coordinates bureau activity with funeral homes and crematoriums
- Provides photographic support to federal law enforcement agencies

FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Strategic Plan Outcome - Measures								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES9-3: Achievement of performance targets (priority outcome) 								
Objectives	Measures			FY 07-08		FY 08-09		FY 09-10
				Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
Efficiently process and investigate death cases	Autopsies performed	OP	↔	2,300	2,038	2,150	2,138	2,138
	Average monthly time for release of body to funeral home (in hours)*	EF	↓	24	24	24	21	36
	Average monthly Forensic Evidence Response Team (FERT) response time (in minutes)**	EF	↓	45	31	45	39	45
Provide convenient and timely access to Medical Examiner services and information	Death investigations conducted	OP	↔	11,500	10,958	11,200	11,837	10,300
	Crime scene investigations conducted	OP	↔	250	245	245	196	240
	Public interment cremations and/or burials	IN	↔	775	824	775	900	750
	Forensic photographs taken*	OP	↔	128,100	95,178	118,000	87,167	95,000
	Average monthly Medicolegal calls	IN	↔	6.0	5.4	8.0	7.0	8.0
Provide accurate and timely toxicology services	Toxicology tests performed	OP	↔	40,560	41,130	40,560	38,049	40,560

*The target for body release increases to 36 hours from 24 hours due to the elimination of one Forensic Pathologist position, two Forensic Morgue Technician positions, and one Forensic Investigator position

**The FERT begins its work after the police has secured the crime scene and completed its initial investigation, so the Department targets an average response time between 30 and 60 minutes

FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS AND BUDGET ENHANCEMENTS OR REDUCTIONS

- In FY 2009-10, the Department will continue staff development activities, including accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners, GIS training, Mass Casualty Preparedness, and specialized training in toxicology, pathology, and morgue techniques (\$91,300)
- In FY 2008-09, the Department purchased a new Caliper Life Sciences Rapid Trace Solid Phase Extraction (SPE) workstation, using a grant awarded by the United States Department of Justice (\$95,000); the SPE will allow the Department to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic toxicology services and reduce caseload backlog
- In FY 2009-10, the Department will upgrade its telephone/server infrastructure and purchase one gas chromatograph mass spectrometer and convert to a digital x-ray system (\$250,000 from the Capital Outlay Reserve)
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of one vacant Forensic Pathologist position (\$252,000), which continues the current autopsy caseload of over 250 autopsies per pathologist*
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of two filled Forensic Morgue Technician positions (\$118,000), delaying autopsies and eliminating extended hours for funeral homes*
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of one filled Forensic Investigator position (\$72,000); impact includes elimination of extended hours for funeral homes*
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of two filled Forensic Photographer positions (\$162,000); operating impact includes elimination of support to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, discontinuation of all photography workshops, elimination of student internships, and delay of all photography requests*
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of one filled Forensic Records Technician position (\$62,000), reducing public operating hours for records to 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and delaying copying and distribution of records to law enforcement agencies and the legal system*
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of operating costs (\$259,000), including maintenance for toxicology equipment, publications, photography equipment, and morgue supplies*

BUDGET ENHANCEMENTS OR REDUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- In FY 2009-10, the Department will continue to provide toxicology testing services to Collier County, local police agencies and entities outside the United States such as the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands (\$68,000)
- In FY 2008-09, the Department completed development and implementation of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) database that provides toxicology data to law enforcement, criminal justice and legal communities; with the completion of the LIMS, in FY 2009-10, the Department will seek certification by the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists, a nationally recognized body that inspects and accredits laboratories that demonstrate acceptable levels of competency and proficiency
- *Due to the economic downturn, the FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes the elimination of one filled Clerk 2 position (\$50,000), leaving the Public Interment Program with only one full-time position to manage all 750 annual cases*

FY 2009 - 10 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Department Operational Unmet Needs

Description	(dollars in thousands)		Positions
	Startup Costs/ Non Recurring Costs	Recurring Costs	
Hire two Forensic Pathologists to reduce caseloads per doctor and provide better supervision for staff doctors and fellows	\$4	\$441	2
Hire one Forensic Morgue Technician and one Forensic Investigator to reinstate extended hours for funeral homes	\$0	\$131	2
Hire one Forensic Morgue Technician to improve autopsy protocol preparation time	\$2	\$59	1
Hire two Forensic Records Technicians to provide necessary support to the Records Bureau	\$4	\$99	2
Hire two Forensic Photographers to improve support for the morgue, death investigations, and reinstate support for Immigration and Customs Enforcement	\$4	\$124	2
Hire one Clerk 2 to support the Public Interment Program	\$0	\$50	1
Add funding for professional development, training and education	\$0	\$60	0
Add funding for technical equipment and supplies	\$0	\$200	0
Hire one System Analyst to assist in the support of the Medical Examiner databases	\$2	\$68	1
Total	\$16	\$1,232	11