

FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Medical Examiner

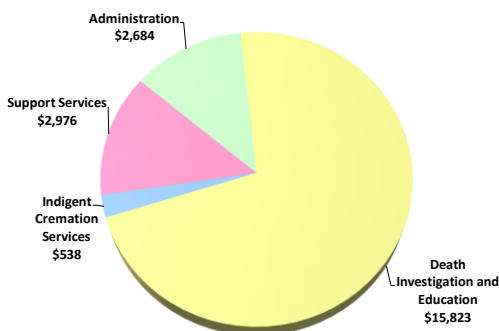
The Medical Examiner Department, acting under the authority of Chapter 406 of the Florida Statutes, provides accurate, timely, dignified, compassionate and professional death investigative services for the residents of Miami-Dade County. In addition, the Department provides education, consultation and 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, investigation, and indigent cremation services; investigates and processes approximately 16,000 cases annually, which include cremation request reviews, autopsies and toxicology and pathology consultation cases; and facilitates organ, bone and tissue donor cases. The Department focuses on what is generally called “forensic pathology,” which combines the methods 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.

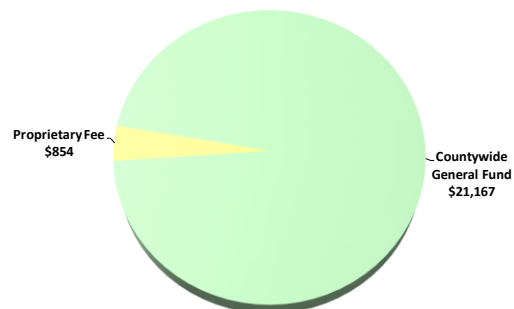
The Department serves the public and partners with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), State Attorney, US Attorney, Public Defender, Florida Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), local and state police departments, hospitals, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and funeral centers.

FY 2025-26 Adopted Operating Budget

Expenditures by Activity
(dollars in thousands)



Revenues by Source
(dollars in thousands)



FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

	<div><p><u>ADMINISTRATION</u> Formulates departmental policies and provides overall direction and coordination to all divisions; oversees fiscal and budgetary operations</p><table><tr><td><u>FY 24-25</u></td><td><u>FY 25-26</u></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>10</td></tr></table></div>	<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	8	10
<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>				
8	10				
	<div><p><u>SUPPORT SERVICES</u> Provides internal administrative support to all bureaus and divisions, including personnel administration, budget control, fiscal account management, purchasing, computer services, records management and inventory control</p><table><tr><td><u>FY 24-25</u></td><td><u>FY 25-26</u></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr></table></div>	<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	12	12
<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>				
12	12				
	<div><p><u>DEATH INVESTIGATION AND EDUCATION</u> Provides statutorily mandated medicolegal death investigative services for the residents of Miami-Dade County, as defined in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 406; maintains Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program</p><table><tr><td><u>FY 24-25</u></td><td><u>FY 25-26</u></td></tr><tr><td>71</td><td>71</td></tr></table></div>	<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	71	71
<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>				
71	71				
	<div><p><u>INDIGENT CREMATION SERVICES</u> Supervises indigent body disposal program; maintains Dr. Bruce A. Hyma Memorial Cemetery</p><table><tr><td><u>FY 24-25</u></td><td><u>FY 25-26</u></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr></table></div>	<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	2	2
<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>				
2	2				

The FY 2025-26 total number of full-time equivalent positions is 95

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DIVISION: ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division is responsible for formulating departmental policies and providing overall direction and coordination to all divisions.

- Oversees fiscal and budgetary operations
- Provides secretarial services and schedules appointments, court appearances, depositions and speaking engagements
- Oversees policy and procedures development
- Directs and coordinates all departmental internal and external operations

DIVISION COMMENTS

- During FY 2024-25 two overages were approved to fulfill statutorily mandated compliance requirements: one Director of Administration & Operations responsible for the department's administrative and operational functions (\$378,000) and one Senior Executive Assistant to the Department Director responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Forensic Pathology Fellowship program (\$206,000)

DIVISION: SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division provides internal administrative support such as personnel administration, budget control, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing and computer services; additionally, the Division maintains and tracks inventory

- Develops and maintains information systems
- Maintains all departmental case files; tabulates information and prepares statistics and quarterly reports for use by professional staff and interested agencies; forwards reports to requesting individuals, companies and agencies

DIVISION: DEATH INVESTIGATION AND EDUCATION

The Death Investigation Division is responsible for providing statutorily mandated medicolegal death investigative services for the residents of Miami-Dade County, combining the methods 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.

- Provides statutorily mandated medicolegal death investigative services for the residents of Miami-Dade County, as defined in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 406; maintains ACGME accredited Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program
- Conducts all medical examinations and autopsies
- Provides and coordinates investigative services to medical examiners and maintains individual case files
- Provides laboratory services by performing toxicological analysis on specimens submitted for examination, issues reports and interpretation of findings 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 releases bodies; provides X-ray examination, finger printing and evidence documentation
- Provides photography services such as copy work, slide duplication, computer graphics, photomicrography, photomacrography and audiovisual services
- Provides histology services by processing and preparing tissue specimens for microscopic analysis by pathologists
- 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
- Provides revenue-generating educational training programs in multiple forensic areas

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Strategic Plan Objectives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS1-2: Provide forensic and medical investigations quickly, accurately, and in an unbiased manner 							
Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Target
Maintain all available certifications in order to provide professional service in support of Statutory Mandate (FS Chapter 406)	Autopsies performed within 72 hours	EF	↑	99%	99%	90%	90%
	Death investigations completed within 60 days	EF	↑	83%	80%	90%	90%
Provide accurate service in support of Statutory Mandate (FS Chapter 406)	Toxicology case turnaround time (in days)	EF	↓	48	45	35	35

Strategic Plan Objectives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS2-1: Minimize response time 							
Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Target
Provide timely service to meet certification standards and/or support Statutory Mandate (FS Chapter 406)	Forensic Evidence Recovery Team (FERT) 60-minute response rate	EF	↑	93 %	93 %	90 %	90 %

Strategic Plan Objectives							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS3-1: Increase countywide preparedness and community awareness 							
Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Target
Maintain contingency space for mass fatality scenario	Body count in refrigerated storage	OP	↔	150	165	125	125

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DIVISION: INDIGENT CREMATION SERVICES

The Indigent Cremation Services Division provides indigent body disposal and maintains the Dr. Bruce A. Hyma Memorial Cemetery.

- Coordinates with funeral homes and crematoriums
- Ensures maintenance of the Dr. Bruce A. Hyma Memorial Cemetery
- Provides indigent body disposal
- Supervises indigent cremations

CAPITAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

- To address the increasing demands and the Department's need for additional space due to Miami-Dade County's growing population, the Department has been included as part of the People and Internal Operations Department's Civic Master Plan review
- The Medical Examiner's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan includes the replacement of an outdated audiovisual system in the auditorium of the Medical Examiner's facility with a modern updated integrated digital system; the auditorium is where the Medical Examiner holds various revenue-producing trainings, seminars, workshops, and events for law enforcement officials, the medical community, the legal professionals and outside organizations in the field; the capital program is funded with General Government Improvement funds (\$1.160 million) and with Miami-Dade Rescue Plan funds (\$345,000) (total program cost \$1.505 million; \$1.505 million in FY 2025-26; capital program #2000001916)
- The Department's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan also includes the replacement of the Department's existing case management and laboratory information management systems (LIMS), which is near its end of life and support; these systems meet the accreditation requirement for the National Association of Medical Examiners to have computerized information management systems established to collect documents and information generated from medicolegal and toxicological death investigations to determine cause and manner of death, generate statistical data, and retain such for chain of custody, evidence preservation, and to address public records requests; the capital program is funded with General Government Improvement Funds (GGIF) (\$2 million) (total program cost \$2 million; \$1.374 million in FY 2025-26; capital program #2000002495)
- The FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan also includes infrastructure improvements to the Medical Examiner's facility including, but not limited to furniture, fixtures, equipment, security, electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, roofs, space renovations, and various other building infrastructure needs; the capital program is being funded through the Countywide Infrastructure Investment Program (CIIP) (\$4.919 million) (total program cost \$4.919 million; \$2.889 million in FY 2025-26; capital program #2000003875)
- In FY 2025-26, the Medical Examiner is budgeted to replace its aging liquid chromatograph mass spectrometer (LCMS) in order to enhance the laboratory's ability to identify and confirm new substances and develop alternative approaches to testing to increase case processing time; the capital program is funded with general Government Improvement Funds (GGIF) (\$400,000); once purchased it is expected to have an annual operational impact of \$10,000 in FY 2025-26 (total program cost \$400,000; \$400,000 in FY 2025-26; capital program #2000004995)

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SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

Line-Item Highlights	(dollars in thousands)				
	Actual FY 22-23	Actual FY 23-24	Budget FY 24-25	Projection FY 24-25	Adopted FY 25-26
Advertising	0	0	0	0	0
Fuel	21	21	27	26	27
Overtime	122	150	167	167	187
Rent	0	0	0	0	0
Security Services	135	136	183	152	183
Temporary Services	92	242	20	68	244
Travel and Registration	33	66	105	106	173
Utilities	69	64	88	88	97

Adopted

Fee Adjustments	Current Fee FY 24-25	Adopted Fee FY 25-26	Dollar Impact FY 25-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Witness Fees which encompass court time, deposition time, conference and phone conference time, review of records time, preparation time, wait time, travel time to testify in court or at deposition, and preparation of photomicrographs (excludes photographic and imaging services which will also be charged) 	Various	Various	\$1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Examiner Approval Fees associated with Florida statutory mandate that the Medical Examiner review each body disposition request arising within the county that involves cremation, anatomical donation, burial at sea, or fetal death 	Various	Various	\$30,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigent Cremation Services (ICS) program Fees 	Various	Various	\$7,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Examiner Toxicology Tests Fees 	0	Various	\$1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographic and Imaging Services Fees 	Various	Various	\$1,000

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OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 22-23	Actual FY 23-24	Budget FY 24-25	Adopted FY 25-26
Revenue Summary				
General Fund Countywide	14,034	15,550	17,133	21,167
Cremation Approval Fees	756	758	750	750
Fees and Charges	20	13	13	11
Forensic Imaging	14	16	10	11
Other Revenues	71	82	65	66
Special Service Fees	16	25	15	16
Toxicology Testing	117	2	0	0
Total Revenues	15,028	16,446	17,986	22,021
Operating Expenditures Summary				
Salary	8,686	9,188	9,783	11,677
Fringe Benefits	4,209	4,720	5,280	6,347
Contractual Services	501	462	430	662
Other Operating	1,289	1,678	2,034	2,520
Charges for County Services	239	186	265	413
Capital	104	190	194	402
Total Operating Expenditures	15,028	16,424	17,986	22,021
Non-Operating Expenditures Summary				
Transfers	0	22	0	0
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0
Reserve	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	0	22	0	0

(dollars in thousands)	Total Funding		Total Positions	
Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 24-25	Adopted FY 25-26	Budget FY 24-25	Adopted FY 25-26
Strategic Area: Public Safety				
Administration	2,188	2,684	8	10
Support Services	2,085	2,976	12	12
Death Investigation and Education	13,289	15,823	71	71
Indigent Cremation Services	424	538	2	2
Total Operating Expenditures	17,986	22,021	93	95

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CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	PRIOR	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
Revenue									
CIIP Program Bonds	253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	253
CIIP Program Financing	1,652	2,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	4,666
General Government	2,560	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,560
Improvement Fund (GGIF)									
Miami-Dade Rescue Plan	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	345
Total:	4,810	3,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	8,824
Expenditures									
Strategic Area: PS									
Computer and Systems	626	1,374	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
Automation									
Equipment Acquisition	0	1,505	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,505
Other	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
Strategic Area: GG									
Infrastructure Improvements	1,905	2,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	4,919
Total:	2,531	6,168	125	0	0	0	0	0	8,824

FUNDED CAPITAL PROGRAMS

(dollars in thousands)

AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

PROGRAM #: 2000001916

DESCRIPTION: Replace outdated audiovisual system in the auditorium of the Medical Examiner facility with integrated digital system; the auditorium is where the Medical Examiner holds various revenue-producing trainings and workshops for law enforcement officials as well as medical and legal professionals

LOCATION: 1851 NW 10 Ave District Located: 3
City of Miami District(s) Served: Countywide

REVENUE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
General Government Improvement Fund (GGIF)	160	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,160
Miami-Dade Rescue Plan	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	345
TOTAL REVENUES:	505	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,505
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
Construction	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000
Furniture Fixtures and Equipment	0	505	0	0	0	0	0	0	505
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	0	1,505	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,505

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INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES - MEDICAL EXAMINER

PROGRAM #: 2000003875

DESCRIPTION: Rehabilitate and renovate existing medical examiner facility to address aging infrastructure and growth of services

LOCATION: 1851 NW 10 Ave
City of Miami

District Located: 3
District(s) Served: Countywide

REVENUE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
CIIP Program Bonds	253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	253
CIIP Program Financing	1,652	2,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	4,666
TOTAL REVENUES:	1,905	2,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	4,919
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
Construction	1,402	2,348	90	0	0	0	0	0	3,840
Permitting	47	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
Planning and Design	298	155	15	0	0	0	0	0	468
Project Administration	158	126	11	0	0	0	0	0	295
Project Contingency	0	236	9	0	0	0	0	0	245
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	1,905	2,889	125	0	0	0	0	0	4,919

LABORATORY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LIMS)

PROGRAM #: 2000002495

DESCRIPTION: Replace current case management solution with an in-house developed Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

LOCATION: 1851 NW 10 Ave
City of Miami

District Located: 3
District(s) Served: Countywide

REVENUE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
General Government Improvement Fund (GGIF)	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
Technology Hardware/Software	626	1,374	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	626	1,374	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000

FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPH MASS SPECTROMETER (LCMS)

PROGRAM #: 2000004995

DESCRIPTION: Replace aging liquid chromatograph mass spectrometer (LCMS) with an updated system; the LCMS allows the Medical Examiner the ability to identify and confirm new substances and develop alternative approaches to testing to increase case processing time

LOCATION: 1851 NW 10 Ave
City of Miami

District Located: 3
District(s) Served: Countywide

REVENUE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
General Government Improvement Fund (GGIF)	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
TOTAL REVENUES:	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE:	PRIOR	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	FUTURE	TOTAL
Major Machinery and Equipment	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	400

Estimated Annual Operating Impact will begin in FY 2025-26 in the amount of \$10,000 and includes 0 FTE(s)