



**Mission**

The Department of Medical Examiner is mandated to provide independent, quality, death investigation using advanced forensic science with compassion and objectivity for families, communities, and public health & safety; working collaboratively to reduce preventable deaths.

**Mandatory & Major Duties**

- Medicolegal Death Investigations-At-Scene And Hospital Deaths
- Decedent Transportation
- Body Examination
- Body Examination Support Services
- Laboratory Services
- Administrative Services
- Preservation of Property
- Identification of Decedents
- Notification of Next-of-Kin
- Reporting causes of premature deaths for prevention

**Department Strategic Plan Exists?**



No Strategic Plan

**2024-25 Budget (\$Thousands)**

As of Supplemental Budget Phase

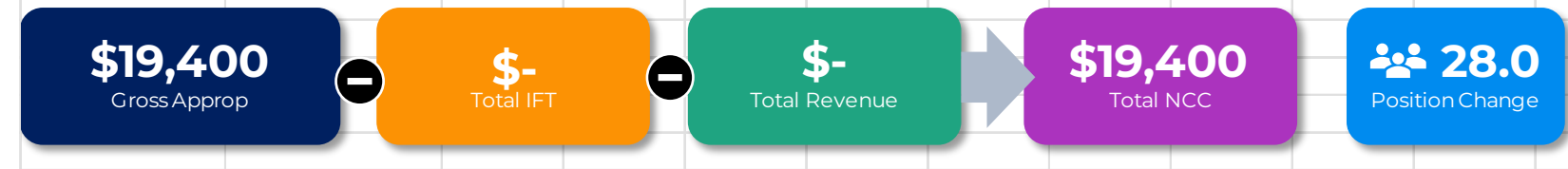
EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS	
Total S&EB	\$ 50,931
Total S&S	12,119
Other Charges	918
Cap Assets – Equip	1,536
<b>TOTAL GROSS APPROP</b>	<b>\$ 65,504</b>
<b>Intrafund Transfers</b>	<b>1,451</b>
<b>TOTAL NET APPROP</b>	<b>\$ 64,053</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>3,023</b>
<b>NET COUNTY COST<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 61,030</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED POSITIONS</b>	<b>288</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes restricted and unrestricted locally generated revenues

# Department Budget Request: Budget Priorities

Listed in order of priority, Amounts in \$Thousands

**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2025-26 RECOMMENDED BUDGET PHASE (\$Thousands)**



Priority #	Request Title/Short Descriptor	Funding Source	Gross Approp	less IFT	less Revenue	= NCC	Position Change	Primary Use of Funding (S/D = Service Delivery)	Externally Required?	Board Priority?	Directed by Motion?	Data & Metrics Plan?
1	Operations Bureau - Medicolegal Death Investigations-At-Scene and Hospital Deaths	NCC	\$ 2,258	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,258	9.0	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
2	Operations Bureau - Forensic Services Division - Decedent Transportation	NCC	3,358	-	-	3,358	8.0	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
3	Administration (Executive, Administration, Public Services, FDIS)	NCC	8,117	-	-	8,117	2.0	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
4	Forensic Medicine	NCC	613	-	-	613	-	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
5	Forensic Medicine - Photo and Support Division - Autopsy Support Services	NCC	200	-	-	200	-	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
6	Forensic Science Laboratory	NCC	1,495	-	-	1,495	-	S/D - Public	N	-	N	Y
*	Other Ministerial Changes		1,680	-	-	1,680	-	Administrative	N	-	N	Y
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 17,721</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 17,721</b>	<b>19.0</b>					

**KEY** RO: Revenue Offset | NCC: Net County Cost Change | AFB: Available Fund Balance | DAFB: Department Available Fund Balance | CO: Carryover | Other - SBI: State Budget Impact, MC: Ministerial Changes



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**Department Budget Request:**

**Unmet Needs**

Amounts in \$Thousands



#	Unmet Need	Approp	IFT	Revenue	NCC	Positions
<b>Tier 3: Other Unmet Needs</b>						
1	Operations Bureau - Medicolegal Death Investigations-At-	\$ 1,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,390	8.0
2	Forensic Science Laboratory	\$ 289	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289	1.0
<b>Total Department Unmet Needs</b>		<b>\$ 1,679</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,679</b>	<b>9.0</b>

**Tiering Definitions**

**TIER 1: Critical Unmet Needs**

Requests where, if unfunded in the upcoming budget year, a department would be prevented from meeting mandatory obligations imposed by settlement, contract, audit finding, new legislation, Board mandate, or imminently cause a health or safety risk.

*Detailed justification for critical unmet needs must be included in a department's budget requests submission.*

**TIER 2: Priority Unmet Needs**

Requests where, if unfunded in the upcoming budget year, a department would be prevented from establishing, maintaining or enhancing programs and services having a close nexus to the department's statutory obligation(s) and/or core mission.

*Detailed justification for priority unmet needs must be included in a department's budget requests submission.*

**TIER 3: Other Unmet Needs**

Requests that do not meet the criteria in either category above. Other Unmet Needs include requests that are not characterized by urgency but are included to establish a record of the request (whether submitted with or without justification) or to signal a current intent to submit the request in one of the two prior categories in a future budget phase. Requests in this category are not limited to requests funded by NCC.

*Documentation for these requests does not need to be included in a department's budget requests submission.*



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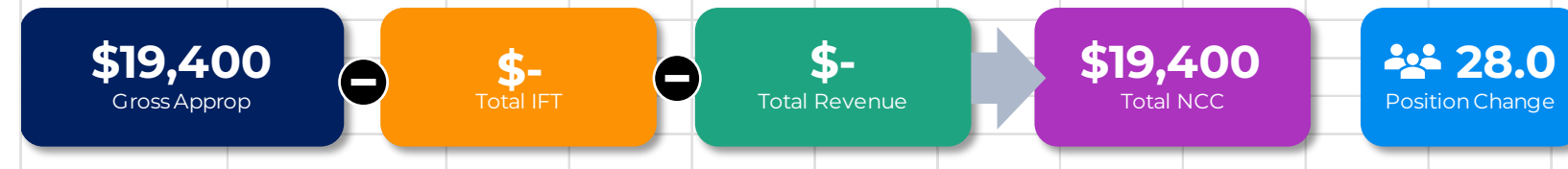
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**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2025-26 RECOMMENDED BUDGET PHASE (\$Thousands)**



**Department Budget Request:  
Budget Challenges/Pressures**

Budget Challenge/Pressure	Source	Impact Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS (NAME) ACCREDITATION DEFICIENCIES</b> due to current staffing levels</li> </ul>	External	<p>The NAME Accreditation standards are a barometer used to determine if a medicolegal death investigating agency is meeting the needs of the community that it serves.</p> <p><i>Deficiencies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average turnaround time for body examinations                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Phase I Deficiency &gt; 48 hours</li> <li>– Phase II Deficiency &gt; 72 hours</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Average turnaround time for completion of examination reports                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Phase I Deficiency &gt; 60 hours</li> <li>– Phase II Deficiency &gt; 90 hours</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Immediate requirements:</i></p> <p>Budgeted items for the 24/25 approved ongoing Provisional Financing Uses funding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.0 Medical Examiner Investigators</li> <li>• 1.0 Supervisor Medical Examiner Investigator I</li> <li>• 8.0 Forensic Attendants</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE</b> (the current Medical Examiner facility no longer meets the operational and functional needs of the department)</li> </ul>	Internal	<p>The electrical infrastructure is overburdened, restricting the ability to implement additional technological improvements to boost efficiencies. The aging facility is also contributing to rising costs, with deferred maintenance expenses exceeding \$600,000. In addition, caseloads have grown substantially, increasing from 9,500 cases in 2016 to approximately 11,500 cases in 2024.</p> <p><i>Immediate requirement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility Study for New Facility</li> </ul> <p><i>Temporary requirement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crypt Expansion</li> <li>• Land lease to relocate temporary containers</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SUSTAINABILITY</b> once the department fills all vacant items</li> </ul>	External	<p>Historically, the structural deficit in services and supplies and capital assets has been addressed through salary savings resulting from a high vacancy rate. Additionally, various employee benefits, such as bilingual, callback, and standby pay, as well as overtime, have been covered using these salary savings.</p> <p><i>Immediate requirements:</i></p> <p>Recurring benefits, services and supplies, and capital assets require ongoing funding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overtime, bilingual, callback, and standby pay due to increased caseload and necessary workflow shifts to improve service delivery.</li> <li>• Contract Services: Decedent transportation, Security Guard Services, Physician Services, Application Developer, Sr. Public Information Specialist, and Outsource Laboratory Test.</li> <li>• Computer Hardware upgrade and supplies</li> <li>• County Provided Services</li> <li>• Systems: LANES, Dragon Professional Anywhere, Docupeak, Agilent Upgrade, eGIS, RPA Project, RFID</li> <li>• Services: waste disposal, disposal repairs, car wash, cellular, and point of sale</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Replace high mileage vehicles and worn-out equipment</li> </ul> <p>Without additional funding, the department would have to keep 15.0 - 20.0 items vacant</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HIRING CHALLENGES</b></li> </ul>	Internal	<p>Markedly elevated caseloads persist since the pandemic. A significant number of vacancies are in hard-to-recruit positions, such as forensic pathologists and investigators. Emergency hiring of investigators and forensic attendants has helped decrease our turnaround time for hiring. However, attrition in these areas continues to compound the challenges of filling all vacancies. Efforts to improve recruitment for forensic pathologists, including salary increases, national posting of job bulletins, and a presence at national meetings (including booths and presentations), have shown some success. The expected graduation of only 20-30 forensic pathologists nationwide each year underscores the recruitment challenges, leading to a recent shift toward seeking pathologist assistants to help close the gap.</p>