

Department of Medical Examiner

MISSION

To champion timely community awareness to causes of premature, sudden and unexpected deaths to inform targeted preventions.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Cause and Manner of Death Determination
- Preservation of Property
- Identification of Decedents
- Notification of Next of Kin



Department of Medical Examiner



CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$69.3



Salaries & Employee Benefits (273 positions)

49.7 (72%)



Services & Supplies

16.4 (24%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

3.2 (4%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$69.3



Federal Assistance

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State Assistance

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Fees/Charges for Services*

1.8 (3%)



Other Resources**

3.6 (5%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

63.9 (92%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

Department of Medical Examiner



BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Death Investigation and Family Services Programs	42%
Forensic Medicine and Photo Support Services Programs	23%
Forensic Science and Evidence Services Programs	16%
Departmental Operations and Support Services Programs	19%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.



DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

- **Surpass accreditation standards** as delineated by the National Association of Medical Examiners
- Empower communities to **affect change that saves lives** (e.g. reduction in fentanyl deaths)
- **Reduce response times**



BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$19.8M
Additional positions requested	25.0
Additional NCC requested	\$20.6M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Forensic Medicine	\$2.6	Both	4.0
Compliance Officer	\$0.3	Both	1.0
Disaster Preparedness	\$0.3	Both	1.0
Personal Property Support	\$0.1	Both	1.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests



CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Challenges

Mitigation Strategies

- **Facility Capacity**

- Re-invent workspaces
- Create workflows that obviate space needs (e.g. leveraging case management system)
- Permanent crypt expansion

- **Disaster preparedness**

- Mass Fatality Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan

- **Concentrate on and enhance core functions**

- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based) goals