

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



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CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

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

Total Appropriation <i>(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)</i>		\$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 <i>(How We Pay For All of This)</i>		\$69.3
	Federal Assistance	--
	State Assistance	--
	Fees/Charges for Services*	1.8 (3%)
	Other Resources**	3.6 (5%)
Net County Cost <i>remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues</i>		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

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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**

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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

- **Facility Capacity**

Mitigation Strategies

- 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