



Office of the Coroner

FY 2021-23 Recommended Budget

Robert Foucrault, Coroner
June 21, 2021

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



Mission

The mission of the Coroner's Office is to serve the residents of San Mateo County by providing prompt independent investigations to determine the cause and manner of death of decedents under the Coroner's jurisdiction and to provide high quality service in a courteous manner balancing the needs of the residents with the Coroner's legal requirement.

Accreditation

- In November 2019, the Coroner's Office became the first in California to be accredited by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IAC&ME) well ahead of the National Institute of Justice's 2016 recommendation for all medicolegal death investigation office to be accredited by a national accreditation body by December 2020

FY 2021-23 Budget Overview

- Significant budget changes
 - Increase of Public Safety Trust (Prop 172) funds to meet increasing costs, increasing case load, and need for one-time projects (evidence destruction, increasing service costs)
 - Including anticipated increases for Forensic Pathology Services resulting from a higher case load and a higher percentage of more complex autopsies performed

FY 2021-23 Budget Overview

- Priorities
 - Forensic Pathologist succession planning
 - Forensic pathology facility re-location planned second quarter 2022
 - Reduce storage requirements by becoming current with retention rates
 - Introduce digital case filing system
 - Increase speed of positive identification of deceased and notifications of death to next of kin with mobile identification devices

FY 2021-23 Budget Overview

- Challenges
 - Reduce overtime costs in investigations by hiring extra help deputy coroners
 - Review staffing needs in the Pathology Division to handle increasing case load

FY 2021-23 Budget Overview

	FY 2020-21 Revised	FY 2021-22 Recommended	Amount Change	Percent Change
Total Sources	1,100,402	1,301,026	200,624	18.23%
Total Requirements	4,002,422	4,418,088	415,666	10.39%
Net County Cost	2,902,020	3,117,062	215,042	7.41%
Total Positions	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0%

FY 2021-23 Budget Overview

	FY 2021-22 Recommended	FY 2022-23 Preliminary Recommended	Amount Change	Percent Change
Total Sources	1,301,026	1,140,714	(160,312)	-12.32%
Total Requirements	4,418,088	4,338,967	(79,121)	-1.79%
Net County Cost	3,117,062	3,198,253	81,191	2.60%
Total Positions	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0%

Innovation

- Computerized case management system upgrade complete – 5/12/2021, server decommission planned soon
- Enhance investigations by using mobile technology in the field (laptops and cell phones)
- Digitization of case files
- Introduce field identification technology

Performance & Equity

- New Performance Measures:
 - Percent of death certificates registered within 8 days
 - Percent of staff who complete a diversity or unconscious-bias training
- Continued Performance Measures:
 - Cost per investigation
 - Percent of cases closed within 90 days

Performance & Equity

- Key Changes in Performance
 - Cost per investigation has increased as a result of higher costs per examination and increasing costs for services and supplies

C.A.R.E. for Employees

- Monthly birthday and employment anniversary celebrations
- “Employee Library” book exchange program
- Quarterly meetings
- Wellness encouraged by weekly office walks as well providing wellness resources

C.A.R.E. for Customers

- Trauma Bear Program – partnership with Trauma Bear Foundation
- Save-A-Life Program – program for at risk youth
- Pamphlets and Resources provided by deputy coroners on scene
- Dedicated “soft space” for families when meeting with a deputy coroner at the office



Questions?

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

