

Budget Change Request

Change request information

Title FTE - Forensic Autopsy Tech

Number B-12-03 Department 12 - Coroner

Requester Lauren Brady

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Change Type Policy Change

Board outcome (to be entered by budget after Board action)

Board Decision

Board Changes

Funds affected

Fund 0010 - General Fund

General Fund Affected? Yes More Than One Fund Affected? No

Policy request priority and connection to the strategic plan

Priority # 3 Strategic Plan Responsive Law,

Does this request include federal, state, or private grants?

Grant Funded? None

Grantor and timeframe

Does this request affect current positions or propose new positions?

HR Payroll e-mailed? Yes Position Impact Adds Position(s)

Current position numbers affected

What do you need and why? Include any unexpected and external requirements.

Statement of Need

An FTE Forensic Autopsy Technician is needed due to the ever-increasing caseload requiring autopsies and in anticipation of the additional cases which will require autopsies beginning January 1, 2025 under the accreditation requirement of HB 1326.

The Coroner's Office autopsy count for 2025 will be 355. Additional cases requiring autopsies will be hospital deaths i.e., OD's, traumatic deaths such as falls, delayed traffic deaths, suicide deaths and for patients who were in the hospital less than 24hs. The Coroner's Office does investigations on these cases but not necessarily an examination on all of them. We generally rely on the hospital's medical records to document the patients disease process if they had one or the injuries they may have sustained. All homicide or suspected homicide deaths will be transported to the Coroner's Office for an examination. For the other deaths listed above, accreditation standards requires those hospital deaths to be examined by a forensic pathologist.

How will this change the performance of your office or department?

Statement of Need

Since 2018, the number of required autopsies being conducted has more than doubled. Hiring an FTE autopsy technician will allow for continued efficiency and high performance of those autopsies conducted in determining the cause and manner of death. The autopsy technician completes a significant amount of work to prepare a body for autopsy and in assisting a forensic pathologist with each and every autopsy performed. We currently have one technician who prepared and assisted with over 300 Thurston County autopsies in 2022, in addition to performing the duties required for the morgue and autopsy suite to function expeditiously. Of those 300+ autopsies, there were three forensic pathologists who conducted those examinations with our one technician preparing and assisting for all three pathologists. While standards restrict the number of autopsies conducted by a pathologist to 250 in a year, there are currently no restrictions on technicians.

In addition to Thurston County cases, our one technician prepared and assisted on over 100 out of county cases. The Counties utilizing our facility for autopsies pay a fee for use which resulted in payments to Thurston County of \$42,400 in 2022 and is already over \$32,000 in 2023. A second technician will ease the workload burden on our one technician and allow for continuity with the expected increase in out of county autopsy cases.

Expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions plus current budget level

Assumptions

Request includes FTE costs (salaries, benefits) as well as supplies, equipment, travel and training expenses.

Current Budget Level

What happens if this isn't funded? Are there other options?

Impacts and Alternatives

We don't see another option as the number of autopsies are expected to increase in 2024 and 2025 and a second technician will be necessary to support our current technician while maintaining a high level of service to our Thurston County community and our associated dependent Counties.

How does this request affect other offices and departments?

Impact to Other Departments None

Which Other Departments are Affected?

Operating Transfer Needed? No

Operating Transfer Coding and Amount

Personnel Information

FTE	Number	Name	Start Date	End Date
1.00	@ Forensic Autopsy Technician / nonu12	FORENSIC AUTOPSY TECHNICIAN		
1.00	< Total			

Operating Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025

			Total:	(3,000.00)	_
5260G0	397001	O/T-GENERAL FUND		(3,000)	-

Capital Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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Operating Expenditure Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
0112B300	510000	SALARIES		67,476	69,504.00
0112B300	521000	SOCIAL SECURITY		5,162	5,317.00
0112B300	522000	RETIREMENT		6,336	6,526.00
0112B300	523000	MEDICAL/DENTAL/LIFE		26,016	27,276.00
0112B300	524000	WORKERS COMPENSATION-L&I		4,440	4,440.00
0112B300	525000	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION		202	209.00
0112B300	526000	PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE		147	151.00
0112B300	527000	LONG TERM DISABILITY		385	396.00
0112B301	531000	SUPPLIES		3,000	700.00
0112B301	535000	SMALL TOOLS & MINOR EQUIPMENT		2,500	-
0112B301	592004	IF COMM SVS-LONG DISTANCE/SCAN		800	-
0112B301	599526	O/T-IT RESERVE		3,000	-
0112B302	531000	SUPPLIES		1,500	1,000.00
0112B304	543000	TRAVEL		1,500	1,500.00
0112B304	549000	MISCELLANEOUS		1,500	1,500.00
5260G040	535000	SMALL TOOLS & MINOR EQUIPMENT		3,000	-
			Total:	126,964.00	118,519.00

Capital Expenditure Line Items

Org Code Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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