

Agency Option Submission

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Signed (Agency Head)	Title	Date
	CME	10/16/15

Fund	Agency Priority	Adjustment Title	2017 Cost Adjustments	2017 Revenue Adjustments
11000 - General Fund				
	1	Reduction 1 (Close Mortuary Operations on Weekends)	(99,044)	0
	2	Reduction 2 (Eliminate [proposed] 3rd shift-Investigations)	(126,518)	0
	3	Reduction 3 (Limit daily autopsies)	(112,500)	0
	4	Reduction 4 (Accreditation)	(2,000)	0
	Total		(340,062)	0
Total			(340,062)	0

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reductions

Agency Title:

Reduction 1 (Close Mortuary Operations on Weekends)

Agency Description:

Reduction 1 (Close Mortuary Operations on Weekends):

As part of a 24 hour turnaround goal, autopsies are performed each day of the year. Implementing reduction option 1 results in no autopsies being performed on Saturday or Sunday with the attendant savings partially offset by new costs for increased body pick-up by private contractor and to rent additional refrigeration because the existing body cooler is already at maximum capacity most days. Ostensibly, refrigeration will be in the form of rented trailer(s) that would be placed adjacent to existing facility and will be less secure than current situation. As an example, this recent Columbus Day weekend there were 7-8 autopsies each day. On Tuesday, we had an additional 10. This would have resulted in 32 bodies awaiting autopsy on Tuesday (on average 6 autopsies are performed each day). This would be disastrous, overwhelming our remaining resources and storage facilities. Our work would be backed up for days. This scenario will repeat weekly.

Agency Priority:

1

System ID:

4578

SID		Agency 2017
Financials		
10010 - Personal Services		(213,044)
10020 - Other Expenses		114,000
Total Financials		(99,044)

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reductions

Agency Title:

Reduction 2 (Eliminate [proposed] 3rd shift-Investigations)

Agency Description:

Reduction 2 (Eliminate [proposed] 3rd shift-Investigations):
OCME has proposed that two recently vacated Special Investigator positions be refilled to create a true 3rd shift to eliminate a significant amount of premium overtime hours now being spent. As a result of implementing this option, no deaths requiring additional investigation will be completed during these hours and no scenes will be attended. This further results in a higher probability that homicides and cases that upon additional investigation result in coming in for autopsy/examination, will be missed. This also results in having to re-deploy the next day shift to 1st address the resultant case backlog creating delays in otherwise normal operations. Bottom line, irreparable comprise to the death investigation system in Connecticut.

Agency Priority:

2

System ID:

4580

SID		Agency 2017
Financials		
10010 - Personal Services		(126,518)
Total Financials		(126,518)

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reductions

Agency Title:

Reduction 3 (Limit daily autopsies)

Agency Description:

Reduction 3 (Limit daily autopsies):
Autopsies/examinations will be reduced on a daily basis to ensure that Forensic Technicians are available to pick-up bodies now being handled by the private contractors.

Agency Priority:

3

System ID:

4581

SID		Agency 2017
Financials		
10020 - Other Expenses		(112,500)
Total Financials		(112,500)

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

11000 - General Fund

Adjustment Type:

Reductions

Agency Title:

Reduction 4 (Accreditation)

Agency Description:

Reduction 4 (Accreditation):

Implementing any combination of the first three reductions will result in an ongoing backlog of bodies and a gutting of OCME's mission (above). There will be delays of 3-5 days based on case timing and complexity. Typically decedent remains will be autopsied on a FIFO method (first in first out). There will inevitably be exceptions made for situations such as religious reasons.

The delay alone is sufficient to lose accreditation and cause a cataclysmic implosion of the death investigation process although saving the annual review fee. Families and society expect that there be a strong investigative system for sorting through deaths and has little tolerance for mistakes and/or unresolved matters surrounding death.

The loss of accreditation will result in negative media attention that will reach back to the Capitol and also results in issues being raised by criminal attorneys while the Medical Examiner is on the witness stand. Bottom line, losing our accreditation will complicate criminal cases and make the prosecuting attorney's search for the truth and justice more difficult.

Agency Priority:

4

System ID:

4582

SID		Agency 2017
Financials		
10020 - Other Expenses		(2,000)
Total Financials		(2,000)