

# Medical Examiner's Office 2024 Budget

Dane County Board

September 11, 2023

# Language Access

- ▶ Language access line
  - ▶ 24/7 access
  - ▶ Phone, video capable
  - ▶ Most dialects
- ▶ Consulates/ embassies
- ▶ In house knowledge base
  - ▶ Native speakers
  - ▶ College level training
- ▶ Local resources
  - ▶ Family members of decedent
  - ▶ University of Wisconsin
  - ▶ Hospital interpreters
  - ▶ Community Centers



**11 Helpful Tips for Working with an Over-the-Phone Interpreter**

the meaning of the source language and under no circumstances may he or she allow personal opinion to color the interpretation. Also, do not hold the interpreter responsible for what the customer does or does not say. For example, when the customer does not answer your question.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.LanguageLine.com](http://www.LanguageLine.com) / 1-800-752-6096



**RELACIONES EXTERIORES**  
SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

**MÉXICO**  
CONSULADO DE MÉXICO EN MILWAUKEE

CONSULADO	DOCUMENTOS DE IDENTIDAD	PROTECCIÓN	REGISTRO CIVIL Y PODERES NOTARIALES	COMUNIDADES	PROMOCIÓN ECONÓMICA, TURÍSTICA Y CULTURAL	SERVICIOS CONSULARES EN LENGUAS INDÍGENAS	SERVICIOS PARA EXTRANJEROS	PREGUNTAS FRECUENTES
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# Med Ex I – Operational Increase



- ▶ Requesting reinstatement of the Deputy Director of Operations Position
- ▶ Removed from the budget in 2023 due to dissolution of the Brown County IGA
- ▶ Workload and obligations greater than reasonable weekly investment
  - ▶ Full admin staff, fully trained
  - ▶ Estimated 12 hours/day M-F; 3-4 hours Sa-Su
  - ▶ Sufficient to maintain operations
  - ▶ But insufficient for professional development of staff and department
  - ▶ Focusing on what we MUST do, not what we can achieve
- ▶ Funding from our Revenue in Med Ex III-IV; no increase in GPR

# Med Ex II-Contractual Obligations

- ▶ NMS (Toxicology)
  - ▶ 3% - increase in cost in 2024
- ▶ SSM-
  - ▶ WSLH no longer able to subsidize microbiology testing
    - ▶ Standard of practice in pediatric autopsies
      - ▶ Lungs/trachea; heart; brain/meninges; other
    - ▶ ~\$1,000 per case
  - ▶ DPH/WSLH not longer accepting postmortem samples except to confirm/determine cause of death; required to pursue permission from DPH for each other case
    - ▶ \$100 per COVID test

# MED-EX III Cremation Permits

- Conservatively estimate increase of 250 paid cremation permits
  - WiFCAP
    - [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/wfcap.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/wfcap.htm)
- Estimated increase of \$86,500 At current fee

- [BadgerCare Plus](#) – Refer to section 1.3 of the [Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program Manual](#)
- [Wisconsin Works \(W-2\)](#) – Paid placement only
- [Medicaid for Elderly, Blind, or Disabled \(EBD\)](#) – Categorically needy recipients
- [Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver](#) – Groups A, B and B+
- [Family Care](#)
- [Tuberculosis-related Medicaid](#)
- [Katie Beckett Medicaid](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income in Wisconsin](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income](#) – State Supplemental Program
- [Supplemental Security Income](#) – Medicaid recipient who was a Wisconsin resident

- Cremation continues to rise in popularity as means of final disposition
- New ecologically sound cremation methods (“flameless cremation”, “chemical cremation”) is expected to attract more families in future
- Cremation allows ease of conveyance across National boundaries, particularly with COVID restrictions in place
- WiFCAP-State funded assistance program; fee waiver for qualified applicants

# MED EX IV Cremation Permit Fee Increase

- Increase fee to 6.4% (from \$20.92 ~ \$20)
  - 2024 Permit Fee \$347
  - Anticipated revenue increase \$65,200
  - Work with PP&J to propose an ordinance amendment for this increase
- §59.36 enacted in 2015
  - Allows a fee increase based on the increase or decrease in CPI (consumer price index)
  - Per § 979, deaths must be investigated before cremation permit
    - Documentation of injuries, recent surgical procedures, medical record review and follow-up, physician case review
    - Ensure accuracy of death certificate data
    - associated costs of travel to funeral homes, wages, PPE, mileage, vehicle and equipment expense

# Med Ex V- Adjustments to Rock County IGA

- ▶ IGA adjustment resulting in a base increase of \$25,000 dollars
- ▶ Minor adjustments to revenue – admin salary, physician
  - 9% COLA increase
  - doctors salary, new doctor in the mix

# CAPITAL BUDGET

- ▶ CT area remodel
  - ▶ Out for contract bids in fall
  - ▶ Public works suggested \$150,000 account for increase cost of materials/construction due to COVID inflation
- ▶ Vehicles and equipment
  - ▶ parts and vehicles just coming in now
  - ▶ new van
- ▶ \$45,000 – radios
  - ▶ Failing batteries
  - ▶ need to be changed out to keep current
- ▶ Tablets and laptops
  - ▶ goal to reduce paper reliance in office and increase efficiency



Use of CT in examinations decreased autopsy work load by ~170 cases (= 510 hours; 63.75 days of work hours)

Anticipated to have a greater role in casework as focused training is incorporated into fellowships



# Summary

## ► 2024 Budget Guidelines:

- No increase in general purpose revenue
- No new positions funded with general purpose revenue
- Only contractual obligations increase

# Thank you

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