
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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Table FX0-1

Description	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Approved	FY 2023 Approved	% Change from FY 2022
OPERATING BUDGET	\$14,123,196	\$14,264,375	\$15,527,201	\$15,412,039	-0.7
FTEs	106.0	94.0	108.0	104.0	-3.7
CAPITAL BUDGET	\$85,244	\$808,907	\$1,284,000	\$1,200,000	-6.5
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A

The mission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is to ensure that justice is served and that the health and safety of the public is improved by conducting quality death investigations and certification and providing forensic services for government agencies, health care entities, and grieving families.

Summary of Services

OCME provides forensic services to local and federal government agencies, health care providers, institutions of higher learning, and citizens in the District and metropolitan area. Forensic services include: forensic investigation and certification of certain deaths (i.e., deaths occurring as a result of violence (injury) as well as, those that occur unexpectedly, without medical attention, in custody, or pose a threat to public health); review of deaths of specific populations; grief counseling; performance of a full range of toxicological examinations; cremation approvals; and public dispositions of unclaimed remains.

The agency’s FY 2023 approved budget is presented in the following tables:

FY 2023 Approved Gross Funds Operating Budget and FTEs, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-2 contains the approved FY 2023 budget by revenue type compared to the FY 2022 approved budget. It also provides FY 2020 and FY 2021 actual data.

Table FX0-2

(dollars in thousands)

Appropriated Fund	Dollars in Thousands						Full-Time Equivalents					
	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022	% Change*	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022	% Change
GENERAL FUND												
Local Funds	10,283	12,196	13,445	14,793	1,348	10.0	95.0	86.0	96.0	103.0	7.0	7.3
TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND	10,283	12,196	13,445	14,793	1,348	10.0	95.0	86.0	96.0	103.0	7.0	7.3
FEDERAL RESOURCES												
Federal Payments	2,216	511	0	0	0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
Federal Grant Funds	0	97	525	619	94	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	N/A
TOTAL FOR FEDERAL RESOURCES	2,216	608	525	619	94	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	N/A
PRIVATE FUNDS												
Private Grant Funds	3	75	0	0	0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
TOTAL FOR PRIVATE FUNDS	3	75	0	0	0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS												
Intra-District Funds	1,621	1,386	1,557	0	-1,557	-100.0	11.0	8.0	12.0	0.0	-12.0	-100.0
TOTAL FOR INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	1,621	1,386	1,557	0	-1,557	-100.0	11.0	8.0	12.0	0.0	-12.0	-100.0
GROSS FUNDS	14,123	14,264	15,527	15,412	-115	-0.7	106.0	94.0	108.0	104.0	-4.0	-3.7

*Percent change is based on whole dollars.

Note: If applicable, for a breakdown of each Grant (Federal and Private) and Special Purpose Revenue type, please refer to **Schedule 80 Agency Summary by Revenue Source** in the **FY 2023 Operating Appendices** located on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer’s website.

In FY 2023, the Intra-District process will be eliminated, and the duplicated budget in the agencies providing services (seller agencies), known as Intra-District budget, will no longer be required. This process will be replaced by a new interagency process, which will enable seller agencies to directly charge interagency projects funded by the agencies receiving the services (buyer agencies). For more detailed information regarding the approved funding for interagency projects funded within this agency, please see Appendix J, FY 2023 Interagency Budgets, in the Executive Summary budget volume.

FY 2023 Approved Operating Budget, by Comptroller Source Group

Table FX0-3 contains the approved FY 2023 budget at the Comptroller Source Group (object class) level compared to the FY 2022 approved budget. It also provides FY 2020 and FY 2021 actual expenditures.

Table FX0-3

(dollars in thousands)

Comptroller Source Group	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022	Percentage Change*
11 - Regular Pay - Continuing Full Time	8,212	8,249	9,273	10,137	864	9.3
12 - Regular Pay - Other	841	824	901	0	-901	-100.0
13 - Additional Gross Pay	473	598	310	310	0	0.0
14 - Fringe Benefits - Current Personnel	2,047	1,819	2,357	2,294	-63	-2.7
15 - Overtime Pay	218	281	110	110	0	0.0
SUBTOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES (PS)	11,792	11,771	12,951	12,851	-100	-0.8
20 - Supplies and Materials	718	700	816	498	-318	-39.0
31 - Telecommunications	0	7	10	10	0	0.0
40 - Other Services and Charges	682	586	920	977	57	6.2
41 - Contractual Services - Other	713	1,103	830	1,027	196	23.7
50 - Subsidies and Transfers	0	98	0	0	0	N/A
70 - Equipment and Equipment Rental	218	0	0	50	50	N/A
SUBTOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICES (NPS)	2,331	2,494	2,576	2,561	-15	-0.6
GROSS FUNDS	14,123	14,264	15,527	15,412	-115	-0.7

*Percent change is based on whole dollars.

FY 2023 Approved Operating Budget and FTEs, by Division/Program and Activity

Table FX0-4 contains the approved FY 2023 budget by division/program and activity compared to the FY 2022 approved budget. It also provides FY 2020 and FY 2021 actual data. For a more comprehensive explanation of divisions/programs and activities, please see the Division/Program Description section, which follows the table.

Table FX0-4

(dollars in thousands)

Division/Program and Activity	Dollars in Thousands					Full-Time Equivalents				
	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022
(1000) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM										
(1010) Personnel	159	148	128	136	7	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(1020) Contracting and Procurement	220	184	141	215	74	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	0.0
(1040) Information Technology	327	353	349	410	61	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	0.0
(1041) Data Fusion Center	158	7	205	130	-75	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	-1.0
(1056) Emergency Preparedness/Safety	-5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1060) Legal	141	185	184	188	4	2.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(1070) Fleet Management	50	32	51	63	12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1086) Records Management	400	406	493	511	17	5.0	4.6	5.0	5.0	0.0
(1090) Performance Management	2,277	2,344	2,139	1,325	-814	6.9	8.2	13.0	7.0	-6.0
SUBTOTAL (1000) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	3,727	3,660	3,690	2,976	-714	20.8	20.0	26.0	19.0	-7.0

Table FX0-4

(dollars in thousands)

Division/Program and Activity	Dollars in Thousands					Full-Time Equivalent				
	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Approved FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Change from FY 2022
(100F) AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATION										
(110F) Budget Operations	170	-6	164	167	3	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(COV9) Corona Relief Funds	2,216	511	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (100F) AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATION	2,386	505	164	167	3	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(2000) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS/ CERTIFICATIONS										
(2100) Forensic Pathology	704	1,615	1,805	1,865	61	4.0	6.4	6.0	6.0	0.0
(2200) Forensic Investigations	1,465	1,889	2,328	2,142	-186	13.8	12.8	16.0	16.0	0.0
(2202) Anthropology/Identification	686	715	620	741	121	6.9	5.5	6.0	6.0	0.0
(2300) Mortuary Services	2,376	2,877	2,958	3,477	520	26.7	22.9	25.0	29.0	4.0
(2301) Forensic Support Services	31	39	41	41	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2302) Histology	90	130	137	142	4	2.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (2000) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS/ CERTIFICATIONS	5,352	7,265	7,888	8,408	520	53.4	48.5	54.0	58.0	4.0
(3000) FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEES										
(3100) Child Fatality Review Committee	604	930	1,113	1,350	237	6.9	8.2	10.0	12.0	2.0
SUBTOTAL (3000) FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEES	604	930	1,113	1,350	237	6.9	8.2	10.0	12.0	2.0
(4000) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY										
(4100) Forensic Toxicology Lab	2,053	1,904	2,671	2,510	-161	23.9	16.3	17.0	14.0	-3.0
SUBTOTAL (4000) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY	2,053	1,904	2,671	2,510	-161	23.9	16.3	17.0	14.0	-3.0
TOTAL APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET	14,123	14,264	15,527	15,412	-115	106.0	94.0	108.0	104.0	-4.0

(Change is calculated by whole numbers and numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Note: For more detailed information regarding the approved funding for the activities within this agency's programs, please see **Schedule 30-PBB Program Summary by Activity** in the **FY 2023 Operating Appendices** located on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's website. "No Activity Assigned" indicates budget or actuals that are recorded at the division/program level.

Division Description

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner operates through the following 5 divisions:

Death Investigations and Certifications – is responsible for forensic pathology, forensic investigation, and forensic support services. Forensic pathology involves conducting decedent examination, determining the cause and manner of death, and providing that information to next of kin, law enforcement, designated government entities, and interested parties. Forensic investigation includes evidence-gathering, medical interpretation, and provision of information to aid in the determination of the cause and manner of death. The purpose of forensic support services is to provide services in the form of consultations and testing services to support the forensic pathology staff in the determination of the cause and manner of death.

This division contains the following 6 activities:

- **Forensic Pathology** – provides, in a timely manner, decedent external and/or internal examination, documentation (i.e., medical transcription), and analysis services to law enforcement, government agencies, interested parties, and families to determine and understand the cause and manner of death;
- **Forensic Investigations** – provides information, evidence gathering, and medical interpretation services to OCME, law enforcement agencies, legal counsel, and the community to identify decedents and aid in determining the cause and manner of death;
- **Anthropology and Identification** – ensures that decedent identification is made in an accurate and efficient manner and manages the caseload of unidentified decedents for public disposition;
- **Mortuary Services** – provides body transport and autopsy support to forensic pathology staff and the funeral industry;
- **Forensic Support Services** – provides forensic support services in the form of consultations and testing services to support the forensic pathology staff in the determination of the cause and manner of death; and
- **Histology** – provides real-time forensic histology support services consisting of preparation, processing, and embedding of tissue as well as staining and development of histology slides for microscopic analysis for the purpose of establishing cause and manner of death.

Fatality Review Committees – reviews the circumstances of the deaths of individuals within certain populations, including their interaction with District government services. The purpose of the reviews is to provide analysis and recommendations to the public and District entities serving defined populations so that they can address systemic problems and provide better services.

Forensic Toxicology – maintains standards of practice for the detection, identification, and quantitation of alcohol, drugs, and other toxins in biological specimens. The laboratory provides scientific support services to OCME so that the agency may provide accurate death investigation information in a timely manner to the next of kin, law enforcement agencies, legal counsel, and the community, when required. It also provides services to various external government entities regarding specified types of testing.

Agency Management – provides for administrative support and the required tools to achieve operational and programmatic results. This division is standard for all agencies using performance-based budgeting.

Agency Financial Operations – provides comprehensive and efficient financial management services to, and on behalf of, District agencies so that the financial integrity of the District of Columbia is maintained. This division is standard for all agencies using performance-based budgeting.

Division Structure Change

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has no division structure changes in the FY 2023 approved budget.

FY 2022 Approved Budget to FY 2023 Approved Budget, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-5 itemizes the changes by revenue type between the FY 2022 approved budget and the FY 2023 approved budget. For a more comprehensive explanation of changes, please see the FY 2023 Approved Budget Changes section, which follows the table.

Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2022 Approved Budget and FTE		13,445	96.0
No Change		0	0.0

Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2023 Recurring Budget		13,445	96.0
Increase: To align personal services and Fringe Benefits with projected costs	Multiple Programs	320	-1.0
Increase: To support nonpersonal service costs	Multiple Programs	12	0.0
Enhance: To support additional personnel	Multiple Programs	542	7.0
Enhance: To support the procurement of mortuary supplies and contractual services	Death Investigations/ Certifications	255	0.0
Enhance: To support toxicology supplies and contractual services	Multiple Programs	150	0.0
Enhance: To support Information Technology and hardware	Forensic Toxicology	50	0.0
Enhance: To support the handling of final dispositions of unclaimed decedents	Death Investigations/ Certifications	42	0.0
Reduce: To recognize savings in personal services	Multiple Programs	-150	0.0
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2023 Mayor's Proposed Budget		14,665	102.0
Enhance: To support additional FTE(s)	Fatality Review Committees	127	1.0
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2023 District's Approved Budget		14,793	103.0
FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2022 Approved Budget and FTE		525	0.0
Increase: To support additional FTE(s)	Forensic Toxicology	94	1.0
FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2023 Mayor's Proposed Budget		619	1.0
No Change		0	0.0
FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2023 District's Approved Budget		619	1.0
INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS: FY 2022 Approved Budget and FTE		1,557	12.0
Eliminate: To reflect the elimination of Intra-District funds budget and FTEs, as part of the new interagency process	Multiple Programs	-1,557	-12.0
INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS: FY 2023 Mayor's Proposed Budget		0	0.0
No Change		0	0.0
INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS: FY 2023 District's Approved Budget		0	0.0
GROSS FOR FX0 - OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER		15,412	104.0

(Change is calculated by whole numbers and numbers may not add up due to rounding)

Note: For more detailed information regarding the approved funding for interagency projects funded within this agency, please see Appendix J, FY 2023 Interagency Budgets, in the Executive Summary budget volume.

FY 2023 Approved Operating Budget Changes

Table FX0-6 contains the approved FY 2023 budget by fund compared to the FY 2022 approved budget.

Table FX0-6

Appropriated Fund	FY 2022 Approved	FY 2023 Approved	% Change from FY 2022
Local Funds	\$13,444,704	\$14,792,723	10.0
Federal Grant Funds	\$525,000	\$619,316	18.0
Intra-District Funds	\$1,557,497	\$0	-100.0
GROSS FUNDS	\$15,527,201	\$15,412,039	-0.7

Recurring Budget

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's budget reflects no change from the FY 2022 approved budget to the FY 2023 recurring budget.

Mayor's Proposed Budget

Increase: In Local funds, OCME's budget proposal includes a net increase of \$320,265 including a reduction of 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) across multiple divisions to align salary and Fringe Benefit with projected costs. Additionally, a net increase of \$12,162 was added to support supplies across multiple divisions but primarily in the Agency Management division.

In Federal Grant funds, the proposed budget includes an increase of \$94,316 and 1.0 FTE to support salary and Fringe Benefit costs in the Forensic Toxicology division.

In FY 2023, the prior Intra-District process, which required District agencies to account for negotiated service agreements with other District agencies in a buyer agency-seller agency arrangement, will be eliminated. This process required duplicated budget in the seller agencies, known as Intra-District budget, which will no longer be used. This process will be replaced by a new interagency process, which will enable the agencies providing services (seller agencies) to finance the services by directly charging interagency projects funded by the agencies receiving the services (buyer agencies).

Eliminate: The impact of the elimination of the seller agencies' budgets will be reflected as a reduction of the proposed FY 2023 budget of \$1,557,497 and 12.0 FTEs in the Intra-District budget for OCME in comparison to FY 2022.

Enhance: In Local funds, OCME's budget proposal includes Local fund enhancements. An increase of \$541,598 and 7.0 FTEs across multiple divisions will support death investigations and mass fatality operations. An additional increase of \$254,657 in the Death Investigations and Certifications division will allow for the procurement of required mortuary supplies and contractual services. The proposal also included an increase of \$150,000 across multiple divisions to procure required toxicology laboratory supplies, contractual services, service and maintenance agreements, and external toxicology testing. Furthermore, an increase of \$50,000 is included in the Forensic Toxicology division to support Information Technology and hardware. Lastly, an increase of \$41,685 supports the handling of final dispositions of unclaimed decedents in the Death Investigations and Certifications division.

Reduce: The Local funds proposed budget reflects a reduction of \$149,702 to realize savings achieved from vacant positions.

District's Approved Budget

Enhance: The approved Local funds budget includes an increase of \$127,354 and 1.0 FTE to assist the Fatality Review Board.