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# Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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Table FX0-1

Description	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	% Change
	Actual	Actual	Approved	Approved	from FY 2023
OPERATING BUDGET	\$14,264,375	\$14,818,623	\$15,412,039	\$15,354,954	-0.4
FTEs	94.0	103.0	104.0	101.7	-2.2
CAPITAL BUDGET	\$808,907	\$2,506,931	\$1,200,000	\$1,400,000	16.7
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 2024 approved budget is presented in the following tables:

## FY 2024 Approved Gross Funds Operating Budget and FTEs, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-2 contains the approved FY 2024 budget by revenue type compared to the FY 2023 approved budget. It also provides FY 2021 and FY 2022 actual data.

**Table FX0-2**

(dollars in thousands)

Appropriated Fund	Dollars in Thousands						Full-Time Equivalents					
	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023	% Change*	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023	% Change
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>												
Local Funds	12,196	12,944	14,793	14,637	-156	-1.1	86.0	90.7	103.0	100.7	-2.3	-2.3
Special Purpose Revenue Funds	0	0	0	318	318	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
<b>TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>12,196</b>	<b>12,944</b>	<b>14,793</b>	<b>14,955</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>FEDERAL RESOURCES</b>												
Federal Payments	511	0	0	0	0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
Federal Grant Funds	97	333	619	400	-219	-35.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL FOR FEDERAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>-219</b>	<b>-35.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>PRIVATE FUNDS</b>												
Private Grant Funds	75	0	0	0	0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
<b>TOTAL FOR PRIVATE FUNDS</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS</b>												
Intra-District Funds	1,386	1,541	0	0	0	N/A	8.0	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
<b>TOTAL FOR INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>GROSS FUNDS</b>	<b>14,264</b>	<b>14,819</b>	<b>15,412</b>	<b>15,355</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

\*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 2024 Operating Appendices** located on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer’s website.

In FY 2024, 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 2024 Interagency Budgets, in the Executive Summary budget volume.

## FY 2024 Approved Operating Budget, by Comptroller Source Group

Table FX0-3 contains the approved FY 2024 budget at the Comptroller Source Group (object class) level compared to the FY 2023 approved budget. It also provides FY 2021 and FY 2022 actual expenditures.

**Table FX0-3**

(dollars in thousands)

Comptroller Source Group	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023	Percentage Change*
11 - Regular Pay - Continuing Full Time	8,249	8,444	10,137	9,645	-492	-4.9
12 - Regular Pay - Other	824	882	0	241	241	N/A
13 - Additional Gross Pay	598	727	310	413	103	33.4
14 - Fringe Benefits - Current Personnel	1,819	2,052	2,294	2,302	7	0.3
15 - Overtime Pay	281	210	110	185	75	68.6
<b>SUBTOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES (PS)</b>	<b>11,771</b>	<b>12,315</b>	<b>12,851</b>	<b>12,787</b>	<b>-64</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
20 - Supplies and Materials	700	908	498	837	339	68.1
31 - Telecommunications	7	8	10	29	19	202.1
40 - Other Services and Charges	586	696	977	588	-389	-39.8
41 - Contractual Services - Other	1,103	856	1,027	1,086	60	5.8
50 - Subsidies and Transfers	98	6	0	0	0	N/A
70 - Equipment and Equipment Rental	0	29	50	28	-22	-44.1
<b>SUBTOTAL NONPERSONAL SERVICES (NPS)</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>2,568</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>GROSS FUNDS</b>	<b>14,264</b>	<b>14,819</b>	<b>15,412</b>	<b>15,355</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

\*Percent change is based on whole dollars.

## FY 2024 Approved Operating Budget and FTEs, by Division/Program and Activity

Table FX0-4 contains the approved FY 2024 budget by division/program and activity compared to the FY 2023 approved budget. It also provides FY 2021 and FY 2022 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 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023
<b>(1000) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>										
(1010) Personnel	148	156	136	142	7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
(1020) Contracting and Procurement	184	191	215	142	-73	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.0	-1.0
(1040) Information Technology	353	442	410	538	129	1.8	1.9	2.0	3.0	1.0
(1041) Data Fusion Center	7	112	130	247	118	1.8	1.9	1.0	2.0	1.0
(1060) Legal	185	194	188	191	4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
(1070) Fleet Management	32	53	63	58	-4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1086) Records Management	406	516	511	568	57	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.0	0.0
(1090) Performance Management	2,344	2,241	1,325	1,471	147	8.2	12.7	7.0	7.0	0.0
<b>SUBTOTAL (1000) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>

**Table FX0-4**

(dollars in thousands)

Division/Program and Activity	Dollars in Thousands					Full-Time Equivalents				
	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Approved FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Change from FY 2023
<b>(100F) AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATION</b>										
(110F) Budget Operations	-6	127	167	175	8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
(COV9) Corona Relief Funds	511	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>SUBTOTAL (100F) AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATION</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>(2000) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS/ CERTIFICATIONS</b>										
(2100) Forensic Pathology	1,615	957	1,865	1,242	-623	6.4	5.7	6.0	5.7	-0.3
(2200) Forensic Investigations	1,889	2,185	2,142	2,201	58	12.8	15.3	16.0	15.0	-1.0
(2202) Anthropology/Identification	715	854	741	804	63	5.5	5.7	6.0	7.0	1.0
(2300) Mortuary Services	2,877	3,095	3,477	2,557	-920	22.9	23.6	29.0	14.0	-15.0
(2301) Forensic Support Services	39	36	41	44	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2302) Histology	130	133	142	134	-7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
(2303) Medical Examiner Transport Team (METT)	0	0	0	1,094	1,094	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	13.0
<b>SUBTOTAL (2000) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS/ CERTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>7,265</b>	<b>7,260</b>	<b>8,408</b>	<b>8,077</b>	<b>-332</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>(3000) FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEES</b>										
(3100) Child Fatality Review Committee	930	1,027	1,350	0	-1,350	8.2	9.4	12.0	0.0	-12.0
(3400) General Fatality Review	0	0	0	1,214	1,214	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	11.0
<b>SUBTOTAL (3000) FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEES</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>-136</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>(4000) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY</b>										
(4100) Forensic Toxicology Lab	1,904	2,499	2,510	2,530	20	16.3	16.4	14.0	14.0	0.0
<b>SUBTOTAL (4000) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>14,264</b>	<b>14,819</b>	<b>15,412</b>	<b>15,355</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>

(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 2024 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 7 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;
- **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; and
- **Medical Examiner Transport Team (METT)** – responsible for body transport, body release and fatality management logistics.

**Fatality Review Committees** – review 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 2024 approved budget.

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## FY 2023 Approved Budget to FY 2024 Approved Budget, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-5 itemizes the changes by revenue type between the FY 2023 approved budget and the FY 2024 approved budget. For a more comprehensive explanation of changes, please see the FY 2024 Approved Budget Changes section, which follows the table.

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### Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
<b>LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2023 Approved Budget and FTE</b>		<b>14,793</b>	<b>103.0</b>
No Change		0	0.0

## Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
<b>LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2024 Recurring Budget</b>		<b>14,793</b>	<b>103.0</b>
Increase: To align personal services and Fringe Benefits with projected costs	Multiple Programs	538	0.0
Decrease: To realize programmatic cost savings in nonpersonal services	Multiple Programs	-2	0.0
Reduce: Savings from mortuary dictation services, consulting and testing	Death Investigations/ Certifications	-100	0.0
Reduce: To recognize savings from a reduction in FTE(s)	Death Investigations/ Certifications	-183	-1.3
<b>LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2024 Mayor's Proposed Budget</b>		<b>15,046</b>	<b>101.7</b>
Reduce: To recognize savings in personal services	Death Investigations/ Certifications	-409	-1.0
<b>LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2024 District's Approved Budget</b>		<b>14,637</b>	<b>100.7</b>
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2023 Approved Budget and FTE</b>		<b>619</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Decrease: To align personal services and Fringe Benefits with projected costs	Forensic Toxicology	-11	0.0
Decrease: To align budget with projected grant awards	Multiple Programs	-209	0.0
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2024 Mayor's Proposed Budget</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>1.0</b>
No Change		0	0.0
<b>FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS: FY 2024 District's Approved Budget</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS: FY 2023 Approved Budget and FTE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Increase: To support nonpersonal service costs	Multiple Programs	318	0.0
<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS: FY 2024 Mayor's Proposed Budget</b>		<b>318</b>	<b>0.0</b>
No Change		0	0.0
<b>SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS: FY 2024 District's Approved Budget</b>		<b>318</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**GROSS FOR FX0 - OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER** **15,355** **101.7**

(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 2024 Interagency Budgets, in the Executive Summary budget volume.

## FY 2024 Approved Operating Budget Changes

Table FX0-6 contains the approved FY 2024 budget by fund compared to the FY 2023 approved budget.

### Table FX0-6

Appropriated Fund	FY 2023 Approved	FY 2024 Approved	% Change from FY 2023
Local Funds	\$14,792,723	\$14,636,954	-1.1
Federal Grant Funds	\$619,316	\$400,000	-35.4
Special Purpose Revenue Funds	\$0	\$318,000	N/A
<b>GROSS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$15,412,039</b>	<b>\$15,354,954</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

### Mayor's Proposed Budget

**Increase:** OCME's proposed Local funds budget includes an increase of \$537,993 to support salary adjustments and Fringe Benefits costs across multiple programs. This adjustment includes the reallocation of 2.0 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) from full-time to temporary status.

In Special Purpose Revenue funds, a proposed increase of \$318,000 across multiple programs will support nonpersonal service costs, primarily in the fatality review, pathology, and toxicology services.

**Decrease:** The Local funds budget proposal includes a net decrease of \$2,294 in nonpersonal services to realize programmatic cost savings across multiple programs, primarily in contractual obligations.

In Federal Grant funds, the proposed budget includes a decrease of \$10,790 in the Forensic Toxicology programs to properly align the personal services budget. Additionally, a decrease of \$208,525 is primarily due to the reduction of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant, and the expiration of the Fellow grant.

**Reduce:** The Death Investigations and Certifications program is proposing the following reductions in Local funds: \$100,000 for mortuary dictation services, consulting, and testing; and \$182,842 and 1.3 FTEs in the elimination of vacant positions.

### District's Approved Budget

**Reduce:** The approved Local funds budget includes a reduction of \$408,625 in personal service cost savings in the Death Investigative/Certifications program. This includes vacancy savings adjustments and the elimination of a vacant position.

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### Table FX0-7

<b>Total FY 2024 Approved Budgeted FTEs</b>	<b>101.7</b>
HC0-Department of Health	6.0
<b>Total Interagency FTEs budgeted in other agencies, employed by this agency</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Total FTEs employed by this agency</b>	<b>109.7</b>

**Note:** Table FX0-7 displays the impact of the buyer agencies budgets funding the seller agencies FTEs in the FY 2024 budget, compared to how FTEs were budgeted in FY 2023.

-It starts with the FY 2024 budgeted FTE figure, 101.7 FTEs.

-It subtracts 0.0 FTEs budgeted in FX0 in FY 2024 who are employed by another agency.

-It adds 8.0 FTEs budgeted in other agencies in FY 2024 who are employed by FX0.

-It ends with 109.7 FTEs, the number of FTEs employed by FX0, which is the FTE figure comparable to the FY 2023 budget.