
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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Table FX0-1

Description	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	% Change
	Actual	Actual	Approved	Proposed	from FY 2024
OPERATING BUDGET	\$14,818,623	\$14,879,085	\$15,354,954	\$15,700,845	2.3
FTEs	103.0	97.8	101.7	103.0	1.3
CAPITAL BUDGET	\$2,506,931	\$1,564,356	\$1,400,000	\$2,968,117	112.0
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 certifications, and by 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 the 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 2025 proposed budget is presented in the following tables:

FY 2025 Proposed Gross Funds Operating Budget and FTEs, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-2 contains the proposed FY 2025 budget by revenue type compared to the FY 2024 approved budget. It also provides FY 2022 and FY 2023 actual data.

Table FX0-2

(dollars in thousands)

Appropriated Fund	Dollars in Thousands						Full-Time Equivalents					
	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024	% Change*	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024	% Change
GENERAL FUND												
Local Funds	12,944	14,322	14,637	15,383	746	5.1	90.7	96.8	100.7	101.0	0.3	0.3
Special Purpose Revenue Funds	0	91	318	318	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	N/A
TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND	12,944	14,413	14,955	15,701	746	5.0	90.7	96.8	100.7	103.0	2.3	2.3
FEDERAL RESOURCES												
Federal Grant Fund - FPRS	333	466	400	0	-400	-100.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	-100.0
TOTAL FOR FEDERAL RESOURCES	333	466	400	0	-400	-100.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0	-100.0
INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS												
Intra District	1,541	0	0	0	0	N/A	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
TOTAL FOR INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	1,541	0	0	0	0	N/A	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
GROSS FUNDS	14,819	14,879	15,355	15,701	346	2.3	103.0	97.8	101.7	103.0	1.3	1.3

*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 2025 Operating Appendices** located on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer’s website.

In FY 2023, the Intra-District process that required duplicated budget in the agencies providing services (seller agencies) was eliminated and replaced by interagency projects. For more detailed information regarding the approved funding for interagency projects funded within this agency, please see **Appendix J, FY 2025 Interagency Budgets**, in the Executive Summary, Volume I.

FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget, by Account Group

Table FX0-3 contains the proposed FY 2025 budget at the Account Group level compared to the FY 2024 approved budget. It also provides FY 2022 and FY 2023 actual expenditures.

Table FX0-3

(dollars in thousands)

Account Group	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change	
					from FY 2024	Percentage Change*
701100C - Continuing Full Time	8,444	9,231	9,645	10,121	475	4.9
701200C - Continuing Full Time - Others	882	232	241	480	239	99.0
701300C - Additional Gross Pay	727	565	413	442	29	6.9
701400C - Fringe Benefits - Current Personnel	2,052	2,109	2,302	2,443	141	6.1
701500C - Overtime Pay	210	251	185	185	0	0.0
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES (PS)	12,315	12,388	12,787	13,671	884	6.9
711100C - Supplies and Materials	908	672	837	614	-224	-26.7
712100C - Energy, Communications and Building Rentals	8	15	29	2	-27	-93.1
713100C - Other Services and Charges	696	757	588	406	-182	-31.0
713200C - Contractual Services - Other	856	920	1,086	961	-125	-11.5
714100C - Government Subsidies and Grants	6	0	0	0	0	N/A
715100C - Other Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
717100C - Purchases Equipment and Machinery	29	128	28	48	20	71.5
SUBTOTAL NONPERSONNEL SERVICES (NPS)	2,504	2,491	2,568	2,030	-538	-21.0
GROSS FUNDS	14,819	14,879	15,355	15,701	346	2.3

*Percent change is based on whole dollars.

FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget and FTEs, by Division/Program and Activity

Table FX0-4 contains the proposed FY 2025 budget by division/program and activity compared to the FY 2024 approved budget. It also provides FY 2022 and FY 2023 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 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024
(AFO000) AGENCY										
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS										
(AFO003) Agency Budgeting and Financial Management Services	127	165	175	295	120	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.0	1.0
(AFO010) Payroll Default	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(AFO011) P-Card Clearing	0	3	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (AFO000) AGENCY	127	168	175	295	120	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.0	1.0

Table FX0-4

(dollars in thousands)

Division/Program and Activity	Dollars in Thousands					Full-Time Equivalents				
	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024
(AMP000) AGENCY										
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM										
(AMP005) Contracting and Procurement	191	132	142	147	5	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(AMP009) Fleet Management	53	89	58	91	33	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(AMP011) Human Resource Services	156	158	142	147	5	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(AMP012) Information Technology Services	442	531	538	692	154	1.9	1.9	3.0	4.0	1.0
(AMP014) Legal Services	194	188	191	196	4	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
(AMP022) Records Management	516	530	568	606	39	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.0	0.0
(AMP030) Executive Administration	2,241	1,402	1,471	1,510	39	12.7	6.6	7.0	7.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (AMP000) AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	3,794	3,030	3,111	3,390	278	23.2	16.9	18.0	19.0	1.0
(PRG000) NO PROGRAM										
(PRG001) No Program	0	-3	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (PRG000) NO PROGRAM	0	-3	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(PS0028) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFICATE										
(P02801) Anthropology Identification	854	788	804	853	49	5.7	5.6	7.0	6.0	-1.0
(P02802) Forensic Investigations	2,185	2,182	2,201	2,315	115	15.3	15.0	15.0	15.0	0.0
(P02803) Forensic Pathology	957	1,266	1,242	1,558	316	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.0	0.3
(P02804) Forensic Support Services	36	29	44	165	121	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(P02805) Histology	133	142	134	227	93	1.0	0.9	1.0	2.0	1.0
(P02806) Mortuary Services	3,095	3,281	3,651	3,617	-34	23.6	27.2	27.0	29.0	2.0
SUBTOTAL (PS0028) DEATH INVESTIGATIONS CERTIFICATE	7,260	7,689	8,077	8,736	659	51.2	54.5	55.7	58.0	2.3
(PS0029) FATALITY REVIEWS										
(P02901) Child Fatality Reviews	1,001	1,200	0	0	0	9.4	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
(P02903) Fatality Reviews - Other	26	0	1,214	1,256	42	0.0	0.9	11.0	11.0	0.0
SUBTOTAL (PS0029) FATALITY REVIEWS	1,027	1,200	1,214	1,256	42	9.4	11.3	11.0	11.0	0.0
(PS0030) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY										
(P03001) Forensic Toxicology Lab Services	2,499	2,555	2,530	2,024	-506	16.4	13.2	14.0	13.0	-1.0
SUBTOTAL (PS0030) FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY	2,499	2,555	2,530	2,024	-506	16.4	13.2	14.0	13.0	-1.0

Table FX0-4

(dollars in thousands)

Division/Program and Activity	Dollars in Thousands					Full-Time Equivalents				
	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025	Change from FY 2024
(PS0031) HOMELAND SECURITY INITIATIVES (P03101) Data Fusion Center Services	112	240	247	0	-247	1.9	0.9	2.0	0.0	-2.0
SUBTOTAL (PS0031) HOMELAND SECURITY INITIATIVES	112	240	247	0	-247	1.9	0.9	2.0	0.0	-2.0
TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET	14,819	14,879	15,355	15,701	346	103.0	97.8	101.7	103.0	1.3

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

Note: For more detailed information regarding the proposed funding for the activities within this agency’s programs, please see **Schedule 30-PBB Program Summary by Activity**. For detailed information on this agency’s Cost Center structure as reflected in the District’s Chart of Accounts, please see **Schedule 30-CC FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget and FTEs, by Division/Office**. Additional information on this agency’s interagency agreements can be found in **Appendix H**. All schedules can be found in the FY 2025 Operating Appendices, Volume 6 located on the Office of the Chief Financial Officer’s website.

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:

- **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;
- **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;
- **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 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
- **Mortuary Services** – provides body transport and autopsy support to forensic pathology staff and the funeral industry.

Fatality Reviews – 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 2025 proposed budget.

FY 2024 Approved Budget to FY 2025 Proposed Budget, by Revenue Type

Table FX0-5 itemizes the changes by revenue type between the FY 2024 approved budget and the FY 2025 proposed budget. For a more comprehensive explanation of changes, please see the FY 2025 Proposed Budget Changes section, which follows the table.

Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2024 Approved Budget and FTE		14,637	100.7
No Change		0	0.0
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2025 Recurring Budget		14,637	100.7
Increase: To align personnel services and Fringe Benefits with projected costs	Multiple Programs	784	0.3
Decrease: To realize programmatic cost savings in nonpersonnel services	Multiple Programs	-157	0.0
Enhance: To support forensic photo equipment (one-time)	Multiple Programs	145	0.0
Reduce: Annual reporting cost savings	Agency Management Program	-26	0.0
LOCAL FUNDS: FY 2025 Mayor’s Proposed Budget		15,383	101.0
SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS: FY 2024 Approved Budget and FTE		318	0.0
Increase: To support additional FTE(s)	Death Investigations Certifications	183	2.0
Decrease: To offset projected adjustments in personnel services costs	Multiple Programs	-183	0.0
SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS: FY 2025 Mayor’s Proposed Budget		318	2.0
FEDERAL GRANT FUND - FPRS: FY 2024 Approved Budget and FTE		400	1.0
Decrease: To recognize savings from a reduction to an FTE	Forensic Toxicology	-84	-1.0
Decrease: To align the budget with projected grant awards	Forensic Toxicology	-316	0.0

Table FX0-5

(dollars in thousands)

DESCRIPTION	DIVISION/PROGRAM	BUDGET	FTE
FEDERAL GRANT FUND - FPRS: FY 2025 Mayor's Proposed Budget		0	0.0
GROSS FOR FX0 - OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER		15,701	103.0

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

Note: For more detailed information regarding the proposed funding for interagency projects funded within this agency, please see Appendix J, FY 2025 Interagency Budgets, in the Executive Summary budget volume.

FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget Changes

Table FX0-6 contains the proposed FY 2025 budget by fund compared to the FY 2024 approved budget.

Table FX0-6

Appropriated Fund	FY 2024 Approved	FY 2025 Proposed	% Change from FY 2024
Local Funds	\$14,636,954	\$15,382,844	5.1
Special Purpose Revenue Funds	\$318,000	\$318,001	0.0
Federal Grant Fund - FPRS	\$400,000	\$0	-100.0
GROSS FUNDS	\$15,354,954	\$15,700,845	2.3

Mayor's Proposed Budget

Increase: The Local funds proposed budget reflects an increase of \$784,408 and 0.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) across multiple divisions to align salary and Fringe Benefits with projected costs.

In Special Purpose Revenue (SPR) funds, a proposed increase of \$183,036 and 2.0 FTEs will support the activities within the Death Investigations/Certifications division.

Decrease: The Local funds budget proposal includes a decrease of \$157,269 across multiple divisions, primarily due to savings in Contractual Services costs.

In SPR funds, a proposed decrease of \$183,036 across multiple divisions, primarily in Supplies, will offset projected increases to the personnel services budget.

The proposed Federal Grants funds budget reflects the following decreases in the Forensic Toxicology division, a decrease of \$83,525 and 1.0 FTE to align the personnel services budget and a decrease of \$316,475 to align the budget with projected awards.

Enhance: In Local funds the proposed budget includes a one-time increase of \$145,000 in the Forensic Toxicology division, which will be used to support equipment for the Forensic Photography unit.

Reduce: A proposed Local funds decrease of \$26,250 in the Agency Management division is to reflect savings associated with annual reporting costs.

FY 2025 Proposed Full-Time Equivalentents (FTEs)

Table FX0-7 contains the summary of FY 2025 Proposed Budgeted Full-Time Equivalentents (FTEs).

Table FX0-7

Total FY 2025 Proposed Budgeted FTEs	103.0
Add: Interagency FTEs budgeted in other agencies but employed by this agency:	
FO0-Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants	2.0
HC0-Department of Health	7.0
KA0-District Department of Transportation	2.0
Total Interagency FTEs budgeted in other agencies, employed by this agency	11.0
Total FTEs employed by this agency	114.0

Note: Table FX0-7 displays the impact of the buyer agencies budgets funding the seller agencies FTEs in the FY 2025 budget, compared to how FTEs were budgeted in FY 2024.

- It starts with the FY 2025 budgeted FTE figure, 103.0 FTEs.
- It subtracts 0.0 FTEs budgeted in FX0 in FY 2025 who are employed by another agency.
- It adds 11.0 FTEs budgeted in other agencies in FY 2025 who are employed by FX0.
- It ends with 114.0 FTEs, the number of FTEs employed by FX0, which is the FTE figure comparable to the FY 2024 budget.