

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CORONER'S BUREAU BUSINESS PLAN

The Sheriff's Office's Coroner's Bureau completes forensic investigations of all deaths occurring within the County of Sonoma that meet criteria as mandated by Section 27491 of the California Government Code.

"It shall be the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths ..." –California Government Code Section 27491

The Coroner's Office is staffed with investigative and clerical personnel, as well as third party contractors who assist in providing mandated forensic services. Currently located at 3336 Chanate Drive, the Coroner's Office houses the Central Morgue Facility (CMF), which includes two autopsy suites.

Contracted forensic pathologists complete autopsies in the main autopsy suite and utilize adjacent office space to write their reports. Autopsy workload for the three prior years, as well as projections for the current and upcoming fiscal years are listed below. In addition to the Coroner's Office Sonoma County caseload, the Sheriff's Office also provides agency assistance to nearby counties when a law enforcement involved fatal injury occurs within the agency's jurisdiction. This is a reciprocal arrangement.

Autopsy Workload				
FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
Actual	Actual	Actual	Projection	Estimate
376	458	457	474	463

In order to make determinations regarding the circumstances, manner, and cause of death as mandated in Government Code Section 27491, the Sheriff's Office removes deceased persons from the location of death and transports them to the CMF. The Coroner's Office contracts with outside vendors for these transport services. The number of removals for the three prior years, as well as projections for the current and upcoming fiscal years are listed below.

Body Removals				
FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
Actual	Actual	Actual	Projection	Estimate
492	566	587	630	569

The CMF is designed with access for removal contractors to easily transport decedents to the morgue where they are placed in specialized refrigerated storage until an autopsy is performed and/or until the decedent's family makes final disposition arrangements.

In addition to the mandated services that occur at the CMF, the Sheriff's Office contracts with organ and tissue donation service providers to allow them access to our autopsy suites in order to perform recovery activities.

Historic annual operating expenses for the Coroner's Office are listed below.

Annual Operating Expenses					
	FY 18-19 Actual	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 21-22 Adopted	
Revenue	\$ 152,970	\$ 177,629	\$ 199,936	\$ 174,560	
Total Revenue	\$ 152,970	\$ 177,629	\$ 199,936	\$ 174,560	
Salary & Benefits	\$ 1,655,297	\$ 1,661,581	\$ 1,795,826	\$ 1,844,947	
Services & Supplies	\$ 954,111	\$ 1,087,863	\$ 1,097,270	\$ 1,065,066	
Total Expenses	\$ 2,609,408	\$ 2,749,444	\$ 2,893,096	\$ 2,910,013	
General Fund Net Cost	\$ 2,456,438	\$ 2,571,815	\$ 2,693,160	\$ 2,735,453	