

**FY 2027 Budget Performance Review
34200-Board of Medicolegal Investigations**

Version Original
Lead Administrator: Dr. Eric Pfeifer, MD

Date submitted 10/1/2025
Lead Financial Officer: Michele Krizan

Agency Mission

The mission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is to protect the public health and safety of Oklahomans through the scientific investigation of deaths as defined by state statutes. This process involves scene investigation and medicolegal autopsy (including radiology, toxicology, histology, and microbiology) complementing the activities of law enforcement agencies, district attorneys and public health officials. We accept the responsibility with integrity, diligence and compassion in order to best assist and provide answers to families, law enforcement and taxpayers of this state.

Division and Program Descriptions

Note: Please define any acronyms used in program descriptions.

Division or Program Number and Name

0100001-Administration This program assists in the collating and distribution of the case data that is collected over time. This program offers administrative support to the OCME practice as at both the Central and Eastern offices.

1000001-Central Office Central Practice of Agency

1000002-Eastern Office Eastern Practice of Agency

8800010-Information Services

FY'26 Budgeted Department Funding By Source

| Dept. # | Department Name | Appropriations | Federal | Revolving | Local ¹ | Other ² | Total |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0100001 | Administration | \$1,484,866 | \$26,547 | \$7,000 | | | \$1,518,413 |
| 1000001 | Central Office | \$8,135,046 | | \$6,844,766 | | | \$14,979,812 |
| 1000002 | Eastern Office-Tulsa | \$6,372,849 | \$25,095 | \$1,710,041 | | | \$8,107,985 |
| 8800010 | Information Services | | \$300,000 | \$1,787,288 | | | \$2,087,288 |
| Total | | \$15,992,761 | \$351,642 | \$10,349,095 | \$0 | \$0 | \$26,693,498 |

1. Please describe source of Local funding not included in other categories:

2. Please describe source(s) and % of total of "Other" funding if applicable for each department:

Balances of Appropriated Funds from Prior Fiscal Years

| 3-digit Class Fund # | Class Fund Name | GA Bill # and Section # | Fiscal Year of Original Appropriation | Original Appropriation Amount (\$) | Total Expended Amount as of 8/31/2025 (\$) | Balance as of 8/31/2025 (\$) |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 195 | GRF - Duties | SB1125 Section 137 | 2025 | \$16,319,144 | \$15,734,839 | \$584,305 |
| Total remaining prior year appropriation balance: | | | | | | \$584,305 |

Report appropriations that have existing balances from all prior fiscal years at the 3-digit class fund number (i.e. 194, 195). Do not report carryover class funds separately. Include appropriations located in disbursing funds. Report PREP, but not ARPA/SRF, appropriations.

What changes did the agency make between FY'25 and FY'26?

1.) Are there any services no longer provided because of budget cuts?

Not currently. However, insufficient appropriations will result in loss of staff and reduction of critical services. Insufficient appropriations will also result in reduced response rate of services.

2.) What services are provided at a higher cost to the user?

No current increase of fees.

3.) What services are still provided but with a slower response rate?

Currently, services are provided the highest rate in the history of the agency. We exceed all regional and national standards.

4.) Did the agency provide any pay raises that were not legislatively/statutorily required?

No.

Appropriation Increase Review

| Appropriation Increase Purpose | Appropriation Increases (Additional to Agency Base Appropriation) | | | Expenditures | |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | Total Amount Received FY 2024-2025 | Total Expenditure of Increase as of 6/30/2025 | If funds have not been spent, please explain why. |
| Additional staff to include; 1 forensic pathologist, 4 death investigators and increase salaries of Laboratory technicians and Lab Assistants. The salary increase is to be competitive in the market and encourage established staff to stay. The addition of 1 Forensic Pathologist and 4 Death Investigators will reduce scene times and case completion rates allowing OCME to be accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners. | \$813,000 | | \$813,000 | \$813,000 | NA |
| Retention and recruitment of forensic pathologists | | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$0 | Payroll fund correction will be processed to move CF 20000 payroll to use remaining FY25 appropriations. |
| Total: | \$813,000 | \$300,000 | \$1,113,000 | \$813,000 | |

List appropriation increases that the agency has received in the prior two years. List amounts received in each year. Include PREP, but not ARPA/SRF, appropriations.

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| FY'27 Requested Funding By Department and Source | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Dept. # | Department Name | Appropriations | Federal | Revolving | Other ¹ | Total | % Change |
| 0100001 | Administration | \$1,484,866 | \$26,547 | \$7,000 | \$0 | \$1,518,413 | 0.00% |
| 1000001 | Central Office | \$11,635,046 | \$0 | \$6,844,766 | \$0 | \$18,479,812 | 23.36% |
| 1000002 | Eastern Office-Tulsa | \$7,372,849 | \$25,095 | \$1,710,041 | \$0 | \$9,107,985 | 12.33% |
| 8800010 | Information Services | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$1,787,288 | \$0 | \$2,087,288 | 0.00% |
| Total | | \$20,492,761 | \$351,642 | \$10,349,095 | \$0 | \$31,193,498 | 16.86% |

1. Please describe source(s) and % of total of "Other" funding for each department:

| FY'27 Top Five Incremental Appropriated Funding Increase Requests | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Request by Priority | Request Description | Is this a Supplemental Request? (Yes/No) | Appropriation Request Increase Amount (\$) |
| Request 1: | Professional staff payroll - to continue to retain professional staff to handle increasing caseload in a timely and accurate manner. | No | \$3,500,000 |
| Request 2: | Operational Expense Increase | No | \$1,000,000 |
| Request 3: | | | |
| Request 4: | | | |
| Request 5: | | | |
| Top Five Request Subtotal: | | | \$4,500,000 |
| Total Increase above FY-26 Budget (including all requests) | | | \$4,500,000 |
| Difference between Top Five requests and total requests: | | | \$0 |

* Capital requests in the table above should be listed in the next table.

| What are the agency's top 2-3 capital or technology (one-time) requests, if applicable? | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Description of requested increase in order of priority | Total Project Cost (\$) | Needed State Funding for Project (\$) | Submitted to LRPC? (Yes/No) |
| Priority 1 NA | | | |
| Priority 2 | | | |
| Priority 3 | | | |

| Does the agency has any costs associated with the Pathfinder retirement system and federal employees? If so, please describe the impact. |
|--|
| N/A |

* Include the total number of federally funded FTE in the Pathfinder system.

| How would the agency be affected by receiving the same appropriation for FY '27 as was received in FY '26? (Flat / 0% change) |
|---|
| We do not have funds to cover current professional salaries and increase in operational costs. Agency will experience a loss of staff, reduction in services and loss of accreditation. Case completion times will increase and Toxic |

| How would the agency handle a 2% appropriation reduction in FY '27? |
|--|
| A reduction in operating budgets will lead to loss of staff and reduced services on all levels to citizens of the state. All legislative pass through's will be reduced by 2%. |

| Is the agency seeking any fee increases for FY '27? | | | |
|--|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Description of requested increase in order of priority | | Fee Increase Request (\$) | Statutory change required? (Yes/No) |
| Increase 1 | NA | | |
| Increase 2 | | | |
| Increase 3 | | | |

| Federal Funds | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| CFDA | Federal Program Name | Agency Dept. # | FY 26 budget (\$) | FY 25 actuals (\$) | FY 24 actuals (\$) | FY 23 actuals (\$) | FY 25 budgeted FTE (#) |
| 16.575 | Victims of Crime Act(VOCA) | | \$45,363 | \$42,032 | \$45,363 | \$28,480.00 | |
| 16.742 | Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant | | 91,828 | 86,830 | 94,770 | \$46,411 | |
| 93.136 | Overdose Data to Action | | 540,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | \$20,000 | |
| 93.136 | National Violent Death Reporting System | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | \$5,000 | |

| Federal Government Impact |
|--|
| 1.) How much federal money received by the agency is tied to a mandate by the Federal Government? |
| The agency does not receive any federal money with mandates. |
| 2.) Are any of those funds inadequate to pay for the federal mandate? |
| N/A |

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3.) What would the consequences be of ending all of the federal funded programs for your agency?

There would be minimal impact to the agency if we were to lose federal funds.

4.) How will your agency be affected by federal budget cuts in the coming fiscal year?

Minimal impact.

5.) Has the agency requested any additional federal earmarks or increases?

No.

| FY 2026 Budgeted FTE | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Division # | Division Name | Supervisors | Non-Supervisors | \$0 - \$35 K | \$35 K - \$70 K | \$70 K - \$100K | \$100K+ |
| 0100001 | Administration | 1 | 7 | | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1000001 | Central Office | 6 | 68 | | 30 | 30 | 18 |
| 1000002 | Eastern Office | 5 | 46 | | 29 | 9 | 10 |
| Total | | 12 | 121 | 0 | 63 | 40 | 30 |

| FTE History by Fiscal Year | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Division # | Division Name | FY 2026 Budgeted | FY 2026 YTD | FY 2025 | FY 2024 | FY 2023 | FY 2017 |
| 0100001 | Administration | 8.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 13.0 | | |
| 1000001 | Central Office | 74.0 | 74.0 | 72.5 | 68.5 | | |
| 1000002 | Eastern Office | 51.0 | 51.0 | 49.5 | 48.0 | | |
| Total | | 133.0 | 133.0 | 131.0 | 129.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| Performance Measure Review | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Program Name | FY 2025 | FY 2024 | FY 2023 | FY 2022 | FY 2021 |
| Total External Exams | 5328 | 5,293 | 5572 | 6673 | |
| Total Autopsies | 2616 | 2,846 | 2761 | 1968 | |
| Total Examinations | 7944 | 8,138 | 8333 | 8641 | |
| Autopsies per Pathologist | 239 | 320 | 319 | 242 | |
| Autopsy Rate | 33.00% | 35.00% | 33.00% | 22.00% | |
| Total Other Cases | 28666 | 27077 | 26512 | 23937 | |
| Toxicology Tests Performed | 78000 | 75,500 | 73000 | 71500 | 68000 |
| Permits investigated by Forensic Pathologist | 30583 | 29,276 | 27071 | 28566 | 29129 |

| Revolving Funds (200 Series Funds) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | FY'23-25 Avg. Revenues | FY'23-25 Avg. Expenditures | June 2025 Balance |
| Fund: Fund Number, Fund Name | | | |
| 20000 - Medical Examiner Special Fund | \$5,368,392 | \$6,239,973 | \$2,708,191 |

| FY 2026 Current Employee Telework Summary | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------|--|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| List each agency physical location (not division), then report the number of employees associated with that location in the teleworking categories indicated. Use "No specified location" to account for remote employees not associated with a site. Use actual current employees (headcount), not budgeted or actual FTE. | | | Full-time and Part-time Employees (#) | | | |
| Agency Location / Address | City | County | Onsite (5 days onsite, rarely remote) | Hybrid (2-4 days onsite weekly) | Remote (1 day or less weekly onsite) | Total Employees |
| OKC/921 NE 23rd Street | Oklahoma City | Oklahoma | 67 | | 15 | 82 |
| Tulsa/1627 Southwest Blvd. | Tulsa | Oklahoma | 41 | | 10 | 51 |
| Total Agency Employees | | | | | | 133 |