

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

Version Original  
 Lead Administrator: Dr. Eric Pfeifer, MD

Date submitted  
 Lead Financial Officer: Michele Krizan

10/1/2025

**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 <sup>1</sup>	Other <sup>2</sup>	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,992,761</b>	<b>\$351,642</b>		<b>\$10,349,095</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$26,693,498</b>

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
<i>Total remaining prior year appropriation balance:</i>						

*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.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$813,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$1,113,000</b>	<b>\$813,000</b>	

*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 <sup>1</sup>	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%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,492,761</b>	<b>\$351,642</b>	<b>\$10,349,095</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,193,498</b>	<b>16.86%</b>

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)	Timeframe (One-Time or Recurring)	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	Recurring	\$3,500,000
Request 2:	Operational Expense Increase	No	Recurring	\$1,000,000
Request 3:				
Request 4:				
Request 5:				
<b>Top Five Request Subtotal:</b>				<b>\$4,500,000</b>
<b>Total Increase above FY-26 Budget (including all requests)</b>				<b>\$4,500,000</b>
Difference between Top Five requests and total requests:				<b>\$0</b>

\* 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 LRCPC? (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
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>121</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>40</b>
							<b>30</b>

**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		
<b>Total</b>		<b>133.0</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**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
Permits investigated by Forensic Pathologist	30583		29,276	27071	28566
					68000
					29129

**Revolving Funds (200 Series Funds)**

Fund: Fund Number, Fund Name	FY'23-25 Avg. Revenues	FY'23-25 Avg. Expenditures	June 2025 Balance
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
<b>Total Agency Employees</b>						<b>133</b>