

Coroner

Activity Overview

The County Coroner is a statutory position, filled through a consolidation effective January 1st, 2008 with the resignation of the elected coroner. The Elected Office was consolidated with the County Sheriff. The Coroner has authority to use temporary employees appointed as deputy coroners.

Neither the Coroner nor his deputies perform autopsies. Medical professionals are paid for each autopsy performed. This represents the majority of the Department's operating budget.

Activity Goals

- Strive to provide the best Coroner Service in Montana, using first-rate investigative skills combined with professional and compassionate care to the family members and public surrounding each death.
- Continue public education classes in area schools regarding safety, using coroner statistics as a tool, and educate the general public regarding duties performed by the Coroner's Office.
- Establish and maintain a well-equipped morgue.
- Continue to offer fee-based services to other counties.
- Continue training of Coroner and Deputy Coroners.
- Modify Monthly Statistic Program to reflect fiscal year reporting rather than the current calendar year reporting.
- Continue building capital for the purpose of purchasing a pickup-style 4-wheel drive coroner vehicle with tinted-glass topper in order to accomplish separate air space for driver and cargo/body and provide for safer travel; intended replacement for aging Chevrolet Suburban.

Recent Accomplishments

- Basic and advanced (medico-legal) training of several Deputy Coroners.
- Providing outreach to driver's education classes and career days in the local schools.
- Provided a Coroner vehicle to West Yellowstone Deputy Coroner for duties.
- Provided safe transportation.
- Comply with City, County, State and Federal standards.
- Increased on-call Deputy Coroners from one to two.
- Developed new Monthly Statistic Program to increase efficiency and decrease reporting errors.
- Developed new cremation authorization process to better comply with state-mandated guidelines.

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Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 58,105	\$ 57,136	\$ 57,138	\$ 57,806	\$ 58,109	\$ 58,107
Operations	38,813	54,285	52,965	53,024	53,024	53,024
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 96,918	\$ 111,421	\$ 110,103	\$ 110,830	\$ 111,133	\$ 111,131

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	96,918	111,421	110,103	110,830	111,133	111,131
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 96,918	\$ 111,421	\$ 110,103	\$ 110,830	\$ 111,133	\$ 111,131

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 72,337	\$ 83,211	\$ 82,379	\$ 78,542	\$ 81,766	\$ 74,516
Non-Tax Revenues	21,369	23,234	22,537	17,663	17,860	18,526
Cash Reappropriated	3,212	4,976	5,187	14,625	11,507	18,089
Total	\$ 96,918	\$ 111,421	\$ 110,103	\$ 110,830	\$ 111,133	\$ 111,131

Activity Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE
1	Part-Time	Consolidated Coroner	1
8	Part-Time	Deputy Coroners	8
1	Part-Time	West Yellowstone, Big Sky	1
10		Total Program	10

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2015 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Increase temporary pay by \$729 for Big Sky and West Yellowstone

Operations

- No changes to operations

Capital

- The Coroner vehicle replacement was added to 'Core' in FY 2014

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the Department is striving to fulfill those goals.

Align community needs with budgetary decisions

- Continue to search for ways to decrease operating costs.

Adhere to long-term plans

- Continue training Deputy Coroners to provide acceptable level of service to County residents.

Demonstrate exceptional Customer Service

- Continue great service.
- Provide safe transportation on roads.
- Comply with City, County and Federal standards.
- Continue lectures to driver's education classes, job fairs and the DARE Program.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Continue to provide advanced training.
- Maintaining a well equipped morgue.
- Best Coroner Service in Montana.
- Maintain an efficient office.

Improve Communications

- Increased public knowledge of Department – receive positive impression from public.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Continue advanced training.
- Best trained staff in the state.

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Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

Workload Indicators		Actual	Actual	Estimate	Projected
Indicator		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1.	Coroner investigated deaths	103	75	108	
2.	Hospice deaths	195	174	204	
3.	Cremation authorizations	330	317	346	
4.	Other calls	7	14	16	
5.	Coroner contacts	635	580	674	

Performance Measures		Actual	Actual	Estimate	Projected
Measure		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1.	Accidental deaths	12	5	13	
2.	Motor vehicle related	14	6	14	
3.	Natural causes	55	46	58	
4.	Suicides	13	11	15	
5.	Homicide	0	1	0	
6.	Cases Pending	8	6	8	
7.	Undetermined	1	0	0	

Comments