

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 146 specifies responsibilities and authorities for the Office (i.e. deaths requiring investigation; responsibility for investigation; notification of death; removal of body; authority to enter and secure premises; notification of next of kin; authority to order removal of body fluids; autopsies; disposition of personal property; unidentified human remains). ORS 146 also establishes a hybrid state/county program structure which limits the county's authority over operations, procedures, and technical functions.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$133,301	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$133,301	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$133,301	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

From FY18-FY22, the ME program has had a 76% increase in cases requiring an in-person investigation and a 40% increase in total cases investigated, with a 30% increase in caseload over the last two years alone. In 2020, cases requiring an in-person investigation experienced a 36% increase and in 2021, an additional 17%, for an overall increase of 53% in the last two years. Historically, low staffing levels limit the number of cases where an investigator is able to respond in-person to the scene, resulting in investigations being conducted via telephone. In 2021, we did not respond to 1,933 cases, up from 1,631 last year. With a steady increase in Medical Examiner caseload, population and cases requiring ME investigations (homicides, overdoses, accidents), this added position will 1)bring the office to acceptable staffing levels and 2)provide immediate support to alleviate the high caseload per investigator.