



Office of the
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR**

Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jason E. Brown
County Administrator

DATE: November 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Medical Examiner's Facility Interlocal Agreement

Background

The District 19 Medical Examiner serves a four-county region including; Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties. The Medical Examiner has identified deficiencies in the current facility which limit the ability to continue to serve the growing needs of the four counties over the coming years. On May 3, 2022, upon request from the Medical Examiner, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting funding sources for the design and construction of a new facility for District 19. The resolution further directed the County Administrator to enter into discussions with the other counties to design and construct a new facility and support and submit requests for state and federal funding these costs.

Discussion and Analysis

Pursuant to Board Direction on May 3rd, staff has coordinated with the other three counties, the Medical Examiner's Office and Indian River State College on an interlocal agreement that would outline the responsibilities of the parties for design and construction of a new facility for the Medical Examiner.

Indian River State College has agreed to lease a site for the new Medical Examiner Facility on campus for two 30-year terms for \$1 per year. This will be executed as part of a separate lease agreement.

St. Lucie County has agreed to take lead in managing the design and construction of a new facility. This will consist of three phases; a space needs analysis, design, and construction. Following completion of the design phase, the counties will be provided with an estimated cost of construction which will lead to

development of construction budget for the project. The four counties will share in the facility costs based upon a formula that is used for sharing operational expenses, and Indian River's share shall be 24.36% of the total cost.

Funding

The most recent cost estimate for this facility was approximately \$20 million, which is subject to change based upon the space needs analysis, design, and construction pricing at the time of construction. Staff plans to include \$5.5 million for our portion of design and construction costs in the upcoming Capital Improvements Program that will be submitted to the Board in December. The FY 2022/23 budget includes funding of \$500,000 for the County's portion of the design costs. Local costs will be funded from Optional Sales Tax. The four counties will also pursue legislative appropriations and grants to offset the cost of the project.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached interlocal agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.