



Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

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Associate Medical Examiner

May 30, 2024

Ms. Kristin Daniels, CGFO
Director of Management & Budget
Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3365

Dear Ms. Daniels:

Enclosed is the Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19 fiscal year 2024-2025 budget proposal for approval by the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners.

The overall request before applying the credit of unused funds is \$4,549,033.00, an increase of 9.83%.

The adjusted budget request after deducting the credit of unused funds is an increase of 0.99% for Indian River County. The percentage increase is due to employee salary adjustments, which are necessary not only for employee retention, but also to be comparable to other district salaries. Increasing insurance and toxicology rates, along with operating costs are other factors adding to the increase.

I appreciate your patience during the amendment of this year's budget. The changes reflected in the amended budget include updated Florida Retirement System rates, health insurance costs, Workman's Compensation, and life insurance. It has been a privilege to serve as the Chief Medical Examiner for District 19. I look forward to continuing to serve our families, and seeing what the future holds for our office.

Most Sincerely,


Patricia A. Aronica, M.D.
District Chief Medical Examiner

2500 South 35th Street ~ Fort Pierce, FL 34981-5573
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SERVING... INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, OKEECHOBEE AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES



BUDGET PROPOSAL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

SUBMITTED BY:
PATRICIA A. ARONICA, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
2500 South 35th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
(772) 464-7378



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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER, DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA
BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

DISTRICT	IRC	MC	OC	SLC
100%	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%

COUNTY SHARE

SERVICES

District Medical Examiner	367,143	92,788	78,118	25,864	170,374
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner	286,950	72,521	61,055	20,215	133,160
Associate Medical Examiner	278,250	70,322	59,204	19,602	129,123
Associate Medical Examiner	278,250	70,322	59,204	19,602	129,123
Operations Manager	84,000	21,229	17,873	5,917	38,980
Chief Medical Examiner Investigator	67,935	17,169	14,455	4,786	31,525
Medical Examiner Investigator	56,409	14,256	12,002	3,974	26,177
Medical Examiner Investigator	55,411	14,004	11,790	3,903	25,714
Medical Examiner Investigator	52,416	13,247	11,153	3,693	24,324
Medical Examiner Investigator	52,416	13,247	11,153	3,693	24,324
Forensic Science Technician-Supervisor	69,000	17,438	14,681	4,861	32,020
Forensic Science Technician	55,494	14,025	11,808	3,909	25,752
Forensic Science Technician	55,494	14,025	11,808	3,909	25,752
Forensic Science Technician	51,667	13,058	10,993	3,640	23,976
Office Manager	49,597	12,535	10,553	3,494	23,016
Medical Records Clerk II	41,474	10,482	8,825	2,922	19,246
Medical Records Clerk II	40,426	10,217	8,601	2,848	18,760
Medical Records Clerk II	36,785	9,297	7,827	2,591	17,070
Desktop Analyst II-Information Technology-SLC	36,660	9,265	7,800	2,583	17,012
Overtime for Investigators	10,000	2,527	2,128	704	4,641
Benefit Package	1,182,755	298,917	251,657	83,321	548,860
SERVICES SUBTOTAL	3,208,532	810,891	682,685	226,029	1,488,927

OPERATING EXPENSE

IRSC Lease Morgue	1	0	0	0	1
Audit Accounting Service	7,000	1,769	1,489	493	3,248
Automobile Travel / Gas / Repairs	20,000	5,055	4,255	1,409	9,281
Body Transport	150,000	37,909	31,916	10,567	69,608
Books	1,500	379	319	106	696
Business Supplies	40,000	10,109	8,511	2,818	18,562
Business Telephone	18,000	4,549	3,830	1,268	8,353
Cellular Telephone	10,000	2,527	2,128	704	4,641
Consultant Fees (Odontology/Human I.D. Lab)	15,000	3,791	3,192	1,057	6,961
Education and Meetings	10,000	2,527	2,128	704	4,641
Information Technology Support-SLC	20,000	5,055	4,255	1,409	9,281
Insurance - Automobile / Umbrella	20,000	5,055	4,255	1,409	9,281
Insurance - Contents Office	12,000	3,033	2,553	845	5,569
Insurance - Employee Practices Liab.	15,000	3,791	3,192	1,057	6,961
Insurance - Profess. & Gen. Liab. Doctors	80,000	20,218	17,022	5,636	37,124
Insurance-General Liability Office	8,000	2,022	1,702	564	3,712
Material Center	2,000	505	426	141	928

Utilities	45,000	11,373	9,575	3,170	20,882
Legal Fees	25,000	6,318	5,319	1,761	11,601
Morgue Equip. Repairs / Replacement	25,000	6,318	5,319	1,761	11,601
Morgue Supplies	80,000	20,218	17,022	5,636	37,124
Office Cleaning	12,000	3,033	2,553	845	5,569
Office Equipment Maintenance & Service	30,000	7,582	6,383	2,113	13,922
Other Professional Services	25,000	6,318	5,319	1,761	11,601
Postage / FedEx	3,500	885	745	247	1,624
Professional Dues Subscriptions	30,000	7,582	6,383	2,113	13,922
Professional Memberships / License	10,000	2,527	2,128	704	4,641
Solid Waste Disposal	18,000	4,549	3,830	1,268	8,353
Toxicology	300,000	75,819	63,832	21,134	139,216
Transcription Service	12,000	3,033	2,553	845	5,569
Reserve for Compensated Leave Absences	196,500	49,661	41,810	13,843	91,186
Contingency	100,000	25,273	21,277	7,045	46,405
OPERATING SUBTOTAL	1,340,501	338,784	285,221	94,433	622,063
TOTAL REQUEST	\$4,549,033	1,149,675	967,906	320,462	2,110,990
Credit Unused Funds*	(1,350,000)	(341,185)	(287,242)	(95,102)	(626,471)
ADJUSTED REQUEST	\$3,199,033	808,490	680,664	225,360	1,484,519
Monthly Request	266,586	67,374	56,722	18,780	123,710
*24/25 County Share	100%	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA**

**SALARY AND BENEFITS CALCULATION WORKSHEET
October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025**

Employee Position	Annual Salary	S.S. 6.20%	Medicare 1.45%	Retiremt. 13.63%	Health Insurance 0.33%	Health Ins. Admin. Fees 2.5%	Life 0.49%	Work's Comp. @ 0.30%	Total Salary	Total Benefits	Total Salary and Benefits
District Medical Examiner*	367,143	8,537	5,324	120,386	1,212	321	1,799	1,101	367,143	151,528	518,671
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner*	286,950	8,537	4,161	94,091	947	824	1,406	861	286,950	143,791	430,741
Associate Medical Examiner*	278,250	8,537	4,035	91,238	918	323	1,363	835	278,250	120,180	398,430
Associate Medical Examiner*	278,250	8,537	4,035	91,238	918	824	1,363	835	278,250	140,715	418,965
Operations Manager*	84,000	5,208	1,218	27,544	277	824	412	252	84,000	68,699	152,699
Chief ME Investigator *	67,935	4,212	985	22,276	224	162	333	204	67,935	34,860	102,795
ME Investigator*	56,409	3,497	818	18,497	186	321	276	169	56,409	36,613	93,022
ME investigator *	55,411	3,435	803	18,169	183	0	272	166	55,411	23,029	78,440
ME investigator *	52,416	3,250	760	17,187	173	323	257	157	52,416	35,037	87,453
ME Investigator*	52,416	3,250	760	17,187	173	824	257	157	52,416	55,572	107,988
Forensic Science Technician-Supervisor	69,000	4,278	1,001	22,625	228	796	338	207	69,000	61,313	130,313
Forensic Science Technician*	55,494	3,441	805	18,196	183	323	272	166	55,494	36,317	91,811
Forensic Science Technician*	55,494	3,441	805	18,196	183	564	272	166	55,494	46,197	101,691
Forensic Science Technician*	51,667	3,203	749	16,942	171	323	253	155	51,667	34,726	86,393
Office Manager	49,597	3,075	719	6,760	164	323	243	149	49,597	24,363	73,960
Medical Records Clerk II	41,474	2,571	601	5,653	137	323	203	124	41,474	22,543	64,018
Medical Records Clerk II	40,426	2,506	586	5,510	133	564	198	121	40,426	32,189	72,614
Medical Records Clerk II	36,785	2,281	533	5,014	121	564	180	110	36,785	31,373	68,158
Desktop Analyst II-IT-SLC	36,660	2,273	532	4,997	121	824	180	110	36,660	42,000	78,660
Overtime for Investigators	10,000	620	145	3,279	0	0	49	30	10,000	4,123	14,123
Health Insurance - Retirees**	2,025,777	84,691	29,374	624,985	6,652	9,353	9,926	6,077	2,025,777	1,182,755	3,208,532

*Special Risk Rate is 32.79%
** \$12,529 X 3 Retirees**

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA
BUDGET HISTORY

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL BUDGET	NET CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE	CREDIT FUNDS
2000-01	\$928,133.00	87,494	10.41%	\$44,407.00
2001-02	\$970,129.00	41,996	4.52%	\$27,812.00
2002-03	\$1,058,663.00	88,534	9.13%	\$31,700.00
2003-04	\$1,148,624.00	89,961	8.50%	\$21,990.00
2004-05	\$1,196,481.00	47,857	4.17%	\$8,608.00
2005-06	\$1,235,460.00	38,979	3.26%	\$172,494.00
2006-07	\$1,314,847.00	79,387	6.43%	\$97,703.00
2007-08	\$1,382,308.00	67,461	5.13%	\$214,570.00
2008-09	\$1,465,531.00	83,223	6.02%	\$176,301.00
2009-10	\$1,474,670.00	9,139	0.62%	\$186,716.00
2010-11	\$1,422,719.00	-51,951	-3.52%	\$250,000.00
2011-12	\$1,538,835.00	116,116	8.16%	\$287,963.00
2012-13	\$1,448,519.00	-90,316	-5.87%	\$283,901.00
2013-14	\$1,519,747.00	71,228	4.92%	\$451,599.00
2014-15	\$1,519,212.00	-535	-0.04%	\$379,081.00
2015-16	\$1,575,401.00	56,189	3.70%	\$353,382.00
2016-17	\$1,802,687.00	227,286	14.43%	\$337,757.00
2017-18	\$2,116,231.00	313,544	17.39%	\$342,370.00
2018-19	\$2,316,139.00	199,908	9.45%	\$421,922.00
2019-20	\$2,968,259.00	652,120	28.16%	\$1,157,665.00
2020-21	\$2,830,062.00	-138,197	-4.66%	\$875,000.00
2021-22	\$2,997,901.00	167,839	5.93%	\$925,000.00
2022-23	\$3,908,136.00	910,235	30.36%	\$975,000.00
2023-24	\$4,141,704.00	233,568	5.98%	\$975,000.00
2024-25	\$4,549,033.00	407,329	9.83%	\$1,350,000.00

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA**

COUNTY SHARE CALCULATION FOR 2023

	INDIAN RIVER	MARTIN	OKEECHOBEE	SAINT LUCIE
A. AUTOPSIES IN COUNTY	162	121	55	333
B. TOTAL AUTOPSIES IN DISTRICT	671	671	671	671
AUTOPSY RATIO (A/B)	24.14%	18.03%	8.20%	49.63%
AUTOPSY RATIO X 0.5	12.07%	9.02%	4.10%	24.81%
C. DEATHS IN COUNTY	2,442	2,268	545	3,994
D. TOTAL DEATHS IN DISTRICT	9,249	9,249	9,249	9,249
DEATH RATIO (C/D)	26.40%	24.52%	5.89%	43.18%
DEATH RATIO X 0.5	13.20%	12.26%	2.95%	21.59%
E. COUNTY AUTOPSY AND DEATH RATIO	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%
F. DISTRICT AUTOPSY AND DEATH RATIO	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
THE COUNTY TO DISTRICT RATIO (E/F)	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%
THE COUNTY PERCENTAGE (E/F X 100)	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA
COUNTY SHARE HISTORY**

YEAR	INDIAN RIVER	MARTIN	OKEECHOBEE	SAINT LUCIE
2000	24.40%	28.50%	8.30%	38.80%
2001	27.40%	25.80%	7.50%	39.30%
2002	26.30%	27.50%	7.50%	38.70%
2003	26.50%	28.30%	7.10%	38.10%
2004	26.10%	30.00%	7.50%	36.40%
2005	26.80%	28.30%	8.30%	36.60%
2006	26.30%	28.80%	8.10%	36.80%
2007	26.50%	26.60%	8.40%	38.50%
2008	27.90%	24.80%	7.40%	39.90%
2009	26.70%	24.70%	7.10%	41.50%
2010	24.20%	23.30%	7.40%	45.10%
2011	24.37%	26.68%	6.32%	42.63%
2012	25.81%	25.73%	5.61%	42.85%
2013	26.20%	24.65%	7.56%	41.60%
2014	26.53%	24.86%	6.27%	42.34%
2015	25.32%	25.42%	6.00%	43.26%
2016	23.83%	25.40%	6.75%	44.02%
2017	23.99%	25.78%	6.87%	43.36%
2018	24.96%	23.68%	6.71%	44.65%
2019	25.04%	23.82%	6.39%	44.75%
2020	23.44%	23.66%	7.44%	45.47%
2021	24.36%	22.42%	7.11%	46.11%
2022	25.28%	21.32%	7.02%	46.37%
2023	25.27%	21.28%	7.04%	46.41%

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA**

ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF DEATH

YEAR	INDIAN RIVER	MARTIN	OKEECHOBEE	SAINT LUCIE	DISTRICT
2000	1,521	1,622	335	1,815	5,293
2001	1,648	1,615	296	1,955	5,514
2002	1,664	1,572	345	2,026	5,607
2003	1,739	1,741	332	2,134	5,946
2004	1,624	1,741	357	2,072	5,794
2005	1,640	1,836	362	1,985	5,823
2006	1,708	1,825	379	2,001	5,913
2007	1,756	1,717	378	2,184	6,035
2008	1,805	1,625	349	2,360	6,139
2009	1,787	1,637	330	2,518	6,272
2010	1,765	1,670	381	2,532	6,348
2011	1,805	1,681	339	2,554	6,379
2012	1,815	1,687	342	2,581	6,425
2013	1,870	1,810	376	2,648	6,704
2014	2,079	1,869	351	2,762	7,061
2015	1,991	1,898	368	2,783	7,040
2016	2,045	1,991	398	2,878	7,312
2017	2,050	1,972	426	2,965	7,413
2018	2,155	1,863	389	3,099	7,506
2019	2,182	1,916	403	3,255	7,756
2020	2,380	2,330	555	3,978	9,243
2021	2,715	2,468	657	4,432	10,272
2022	2,607	2,286	563	4,179	9,635
2023	2,442	2,268	545	3,994	9,249

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
DISTRICT 19, FLORIDA**

ANNUAL AUTOPSY EXAMINATIONS

YEAR	INDIAN RIVER	MARTIN	OKEECHOBEE	SAINT LUCIE	DISTRICT
2000	91	118	47	194	450
2001	138	132	54	243	567
2002	136	164	57	245	602
2003	145	168	53	246	612
2004	144	179	53	220	596
2005	143	140	58	220	561
2006	138	154	57	229	578
2007	138	143	61	235	577
2008	160	140	56	250	606
2009	155	144	55	268	622
2010	107	105	45	262	519*
2011	109	144	39	241	533*
2012	115	124	29	224	492*
2013	134	122	52	239	547*
2014	128	126	41	247	543*
2015	119	127	36	250	532*
2016	127	152	52	314	645
2017	127	156	50	292	625
2018	144	153	56	326	679
2019	133	139	46	288	606
2020	131	137	55	297	620
2021	168	157	59	370	754
2022	169	136	59	355	719
2023	162	121	55	333	671

*Reflects less autopsies due to more external examinations and consultations performed in order to be in compliance with NAME accreditation.

% of Increase for Each County

Indian River County

Fiscal Year	Adjusted Request	Increase	% Change	# of Autopsies
2000-01	\$230,652	28,372	14.03%	100
2001-02	\$229,202	(1,450)	-0.63%	91
2002-03	\$281,799	52,597	22.95%	138
2003-04	\$288,680	6,881	2.44%	136
2004-05	\$314,709	26,029	9.02%	145
2005-06	\$288,924	(25,785)	-8.19%	144
2006-07	\$338,413	49,489	17.13%	143
2007-08	\$319,289	(19,124)	-5.65%	138
2008-09	\$341,117	21,828	6.84%	138
2009-10	\$362,326	21,209	6.22%	160
2010-11	\$313,616	(48,710)	-13.44%	155
2011-12	\$295,512	(18,104)	-5.77%	107
2012-13	\$283,817	(11,695)	-3.96%	109
2013-14	\$275,689	(8,128)	-2.86%	115
2014-15	\$298,663	22,974	8.33%	134
2015-16	\$324,199	25,536	8.55%	128
2016-17	\$370,991	46,792	14.43%	119
2017-18	\$422,690	51,699	13.94%	127
2018-19	\$454,367	31,677	7.49%	127
2019-20	\$451,906	(2,461)	-0.54%	144
2020-21	\$489,550	37,644	8.33%	133
2021-22	\$485,812	(3,738)	-0.76%	131
2022-23	\$714,398	228,586	47.05%	168
2023-24	\$800,582	86,184	12.06%	169
2024-25	\$808,490	7,908	0.99%	162

Martin County

Fiscal Year	Adjusted Request	Increase	% Change	# of Autopsies
2000-01	\$249,211	62,903	33.76%	107
2001-02	\$269,478	20,267	8.13%	118
2002-03	\$264,197	(5,281)	-1.96%	132
2003-04	\$299,284	35,087	13.28%	164
2004-05	\$336,363	37,099	12.40%	168
2005-06	\$335,577	(806)	-0.24%	179
2006-07	\$357,187	21,610	6.44%	140
2007-08	\$347,234	(9,953)	-2.79%	154
2008-09	\$339,938	(7,296)	-2.10%	143
2009-10	\$311,944	(27,994)	-8.24%	140
2010-11	\$284,912	(27,032)	-8.67%	144
2011-12	\$287,422	2,510	0.88%	105
2012-13	\$310,720	23,298	8.11%	144
2013-14	\$274,834	(35,886)	-11.55%	124
2014-15	\$281,055	6,221	2.26%	122
2015-16	\$303,773	22,718	8.08%	126
2016-17	\$372,330	68,557	22.57%	127
2017-18	\$450,517	78,187	21.00%	152
2018-19	\$488,347	37,830	8.40%	156
2019-20	\$428,688	(59,659)	-12.22%	153
2020-21	\$465,703	37,015	8.63%	139
2021-22	\$490,349	24,646	5.29%	137
2022-23	\$657,738	167,389	34.14%	157
2023-24	\$675,160	17,422	2.65%	136
2024-25	\$680,664	5,504	0.82%	121

Okeechobee County

Fiscal Year	Adjusted Request	Increase	% Change	# of Autopsies
2000-01	\$76,885	2,716	3.66%	46
2001-02	\$77,767	882	1.15%	47
2002-03	\$76,642	(1,125)	-1.45%	54
2003-04	\$82,295	5,653	7.38%	57
2004-05	\$84,304	2,009	2.44%	53
2005-06	\$83,097	(1,207)	-1.43%	53
2006-07	\$105,390	22,293	26.83%	58
2007-08	\$99,249	(6,141)	-5.83%	57
2008-09	\$108,472	9,223	9.29%	61
2009-10	\$94,001	(14,471)	-13.34%	56
2010-11	\$80,013	(13,988)	-14.88%	55
2011-12	\$93,428	13,415	16.77%	45
2012-13	\$73,604	(19,824)	-21.22%	39
2013-14	\$59,923	(13,681)	-18.59%	29
2014-15	\$86,165	26,242	43.79%	52
2015-16	\$76,593	(9,572)	-11.11%	41
2016-17	\$87,853	11,260	14.70%	36
2017-18	\$119,781	31,928	36.34%	52
2018-19	\$130,196	10,415	8.70%	50
2019-20	\$121,581	(8,615)	-6.62%	56
2020-21	\$124,994	3,413	2.81%	46
2021-22	\$154,164	29,170	23.34%	55
2022-23	\$208,560	54,396	35.28%	59
2023-24	\$222,447	13,887	6.66%	59
2024-25	\$225,360	2,913	1.31%	55

St. Lucie County

Fiscal Year	Adjusted Request	Increase	% Change	# of Autopsies
2000-01	\$326,979	43,038	15.16%	164
2001-02	\$365,869	38,890	11.89%	194
2002-03	\$404,325	38,456	10.51%	243
2003-04	\$420,265	15,940	3.94%	245
2004-05	\$452,477	32,212	7.66%	246
2005-06	\$400,368	(52,109)	-11.52%	220
2006-07	\$461,154	60,786	15.18%	220
2007-08	\$446,966	(14,188)	-3.08%	229
2008-09	\$499,703	52,737	11.80%	235
2009-10	\$519,882	19,979	4.00%	250
2010-11	\$494,179	(25,503)	-4.91%	268
2011-12	\$574,510	80,331	16.26%	262
2012-13	\$495,624	(78,886)	-13.73%	241
2013-14	\$457,702	(37,922)	-7.65%	224
2014-15	\$474,248	16,546	3.62%	239
2015-16	\$517,454	43,206	9.11%	247
2016-17	\$633,757	116,303	22.48%	250
2017-18	\$780,873	147,116	23.21%	314
2018-19	\$821,308	40,435	5.18%	292
2019-20	\$808,419	(12,889)	-1.57%	326
2020-21	\$874,815	66,396	8.21%	288
2021-22	\$942,577	67,762	7.75%	297
2022-23	\$1,352,441	409,864	43.48%	370
2023-24	\$1,468,516	116,075	8.58%	355
2024-25	\$1,484,519	16,003	1.09%	333