



Kane County Coroner's Office 2020 Budget Request

Rob Russell, Coroner



Four Questions

- What is the office supposed to do?
- Are we doing what we are supposed to do?
- Are we efficient at what we are supposed to do?
- If efficient, what does it cost to perform the service we are supposed to do at an responsible level?



What are we supposed to do?

(55 ILCS 5/3-3001-3045)

Medicolegal Death Investigation- (primary focus) process of determining the cause and manner of death. Various tests as needed including autopsy, toxicology, etc. This includes all investigation through the creation and filing of the death certificate to the state.

Identify Remains: utilize scientific methods and tests to determine identity when needed.

Issue Cremation Permits: (Only source of revenue-Special Fund 289)

Death Prevention Programs: as a Conservator of the Peace, the coroner has a statutory and moral obligation to support the thwarting of premature death. (20 ILCS 301/5-23, 55 ILCS 5/3-3007)



Are we doing what we are supposed to do?

Accreditation (external)

Auditor reports (internal)

Mandated Study (both)



Are we efficient and excellent at what we do?

- **Mandated Study:** *“Kane County has been ordering autopsies at a rate lower than that of the peer counties.”* –Bruce Cowans, Fiscal Choice, Inc

“...options to reduce the budget and slow the pace of the work is NOT a viable option.” - Bruce Cowans

- **Office evaluation surveys from families we served:**
“I would like to thank everyone involved. It was a difficult time, but the caring professional way things were taken care of made it better. Sincere thanks!” – Family member of a decedent (2018)



What is the cost to perform the statutory service at an efficient level? (Actual costs)

- 2016: \$1,058,108
- 2017: \$1,069,679
- 2018: \$1,096,003
- 2019: projected- \$1,117,923
- 2020 budget request: \$1,146,572
- Average increase in actual costs were 1-2% per year
- Less than 1% of the Kane County Budget
- Very little discretionary spending-Mostly mandated



Specific details available upon request.
Please ask, stop by, review, and evaluate at
your leisure. We want you to completely
understand, why, what and how we
investigate!

Questions?

