

A decorative white floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns surrounds the central text on a black background.

# KANE COUNTY CORONER

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**2021 Budget Request**

*August Committee of the Whole Meeting*

*August 25, 2020*

**Rob Russell  
Coroner**

# KEEP IT SIMPLE



*"Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand."*

*Colin Powell*

# WHAT DO WE DO?

❖ **Conduct Medicolegal Death Investigations** through the use of:

Telephone Information Gathering

Scene Information and Sample Collecting

Cooperation with Police and Fire Agencies

Medical Autopsies Through Professional Service Agreements with MDs

Toxicology Lab submittals

Follow up investigation (Dr's, next of Kin, etc)

Cremation Permits

Release to Funeral Homes

FOIA requests

Many More Duties and Assignments....Check Annual Reports for 2018-2019 and 2015 Study performed by Fiscal Choice, Inc. for more information on what we do.



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# 2021 BUDGET REQUEST

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❖ \$1,297,392 (less than 1% of JPS Budget)

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# BUDGET PROCESS

❖ **Our request is based on:**

1. Previous years' actual budget numbers-we run a very efficient and legally sound office (been proven).
2. Search for anomalies from previous years-what expenses were out of the ordinary and is there a need to adjust.
3. What expenses are fixed by contract (Union, Professional Services, etc) or have built-in increases and cannot be lowered.
4. What are the current trends?
5. What is our best fiscally responsible estimate based on these four indicators?

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# 1. PREVIOUS YEARS

- ❖ 2017 Actual \$1,069, 679
- ❖ 2018 Actual \$1,096,679
- ❖ 2019 Actual \$1,188,355
- ❖ 2020 Est. \$1,213,172 (FY20 not completed yet)
- ❖ 2021 Request \$1,297,392 (Appr. 7% increase)

## 2. ANY ANOMALIES?

- ❖ COVID-19 (almost 300 deaths so far)
- ❖ 22% increase in 2020 total deaths from 2019 at the same time (Jan 1- July 31).
- ❖ PPE increased usage
- ❖ Increased Personnel hours for safety protocols
- ❖ Increase Fuel expenditure (Cooler Truck)
- ❖ Uptick in drug related deaths and suicide



# 3. FIXED EXPENSES

- ❖ Union Contract (2.5% increase)
- ❖ Increasing Lab Costs (increase every year)-Currently NMS is still the best and least expensive
- ❖ State Mandates (subject to the amount of death that occurs)



# CURRENT TRENDS

❖ **Lack of resources provided at the beginning of the year (perennial issue).**


The amended FY20 budget had 37% less for Technical Services (Autopsy and Tox) in 2020 from 2019 line item. This is our second largest line item.

❖ **Disease**

❖ **Opioids**

❖ **Social Unrest-Rioting**


❖ **Increased Police Scrutiny** (requires extensive due diligence on every suspicious incident)




# BEST ESTIMATE

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- ❖ Based on the Totality of these Circumstances, my Team and I believe a minimum of a 7% increase will be needed.
- ❖ \$1,213,172 Estimated 2020 total
- ❖ Request 2021: \$1,297,392 (7%)

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- ❖ Coroner cannot perform his/her own Autopsies even if he/she is a Forensic Pathologist (55 ILCS 5/3-3014)
  - ❖ Medical Examiner system is too expensive for a county of Kane's size
  - ❖ Already been probed by previous board



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- ❖ Please review our 2019 Annual Report for more details
- ❖ Any specific questions and/or concerns? Please contact me/us directly. I would be happy to assist answering any and all questions.
- ❖ Please come on a ride along to see my incredible team in action.

# COMING SOON: ACCREDITATION RE-CERTIFICATION

