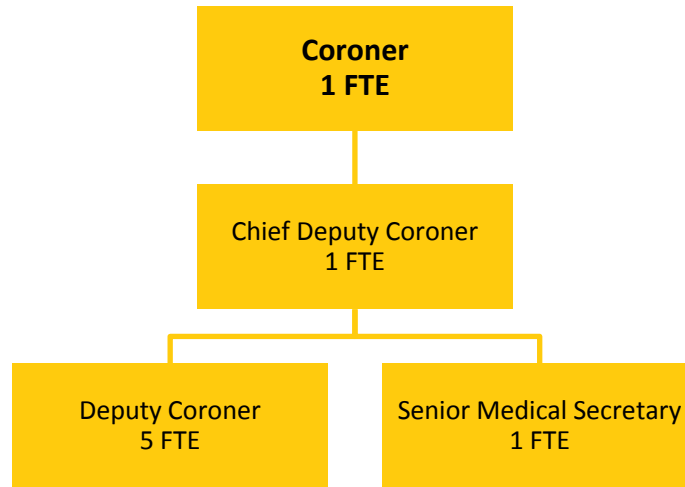


CORONER
Fund 080-042



Coroner positions: 8 FTE

The position and duties of the Coroner are statutorily defined in the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/3-3).

MISSION STATEMENT

To investigate the cause and manner of death of anyone who falls under the jurisdiction of the Coroner as prescribed by law. The Coroner’s Office sustains teamwork in medico-legal death investigations, delivered with compassion and respect, for the health and well-being of the people of Champaign County.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The coroner’s office has experienced significant challenges over the past 2-3 years with trying to keep up with the increased demands and expectations of today’s death investigations. Thanks to television programs, true crime novels, and the internet, investigations to determine cause and manner of death have become more difficult, more prevalent, and more costly than ever before. Additionally, a more transient and less connected society creates a need for increased personnel and financial resources to effectively complete today’s death investigations. The coroner’s office is at a crossroads when it comes to serving citizens of the tenth largest county in Illinois with a level one trauma center, second major hospital, the University of Illinois, and several major interstates crossing through its borders. There are two options for the coroner’s office fiscal year 2022 budget.

The first option reflects an increase of personnel by two full-time Deputy Coroner Investigators to allow the coroner’s office to meet minimum staffing requirements for a twenty-four-hour seven day per week operation. In addition, the first option provides for an increase in part-time personnel wages for staff that assist with auxiliary duties such as removing bodies from death scenes, and overtime for full-time staff who must cover holidays and other staff benefit time. This option is the most economical option due to the fact it maintains revenue streams from autopsy and other related services provided to state, county, and private entities and keeps “in house” autopsy expenses manageable.

The second option for the coroner’s office fiscal year 2022 budget reflects no increase in full-time nor part-time personnel but, a larger increase in the overtime budget. A substantial increase in overtime costs for full-time staff will assuredly result from no increase in full-time staff for fiscal year 2022. Additionally,

autopsy costs will more than double due to the fact the coroner's office will have to suspend all in house autopsies and other related services effective January 1, 2022 due to a shortage of full-time staff to manage death investigations and daily operations of the morgue. The coroner's office will utilize the same forensic pathologist for autopsies however, Champaign County decedents will be transported to another autopsy facility outside Champaign County due to lack of full-time staff. Transporting decedents to an autopsy facility outside of Champaign County will add significant costs to the autopsy budget. Furthermore, approximately \$50,000-\$60,000 of annual autopsy revenue from other counties will be lost under the second option due to suspension of autopsy services.

Regardless of which option the county board decides for fiscal year 2022, an increase in the coroner's budget for operational supplies and indigent burials will be necessary. Many operational supplies utilized by the coroner have tripled in cost since COVID-19 began more than a year ago. Additionally, Champaign County has seen a significant rise in the number of indigent and unclaimed decedents falling under the jurisdiction of the coroner over the past year and it is expected to continue rising each year.

FINANCIAL

Fund 080 Dept 042			2020	2021	2021	2022
			Actual	Original	Projected	Budget
332	41	FEMA PA	\$0	\$0	\$4,703	\$0
334	42	IL DP PUB HLTH-GEN RV GRT	\$4,336	\$4,800	\$3,922	\$4,800
335	71	STATE REV-SALARY STIPENDS	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
		FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL SHARED REVENUE	\$10,836	\$11,300	\$15,125	\$11,300
341	41	CORONER STATUTORY FEES	\$66,622	\$0	\$0	\$0
341	42	REIMB OF CORONER COSTS	\$67,866	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$58,000
		FEES AND FINES	\$134,488	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$58,000
363	60	PRIVATE GRANTS	\$3,501	\$0	\$0	\$0
		MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,501	\$0	\$0	\$0
		REVENUE TOTALS	\$148,825	\$65,300	\$69,125	\$69,300
511	1	ELECTED OFFICIAL SALARY	\$95,161	\$91,983	\$91,983	\$93,666
511	3	REG. FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	\$228,724	\$234,998	\$257,064	\$337,578
511	5	TEMP. SALARIES & WAGES	\$28,223	\$33,963	\$43,662	\$34,000
511	9	OVERTIME	\$14,414	\$10,000	\$26,500	\$16,500
511	40	STATE-PAID SALARY STIPEND	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
513	21	EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS/LAB	\$400	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
		PERSONNEL	\$373,422	\$378,644	\$426,909	\$489,444
522	1	STATIONERY & PRINTING	\$91	\$0	\$0	\$0
522	2	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$589	\$600	\$600	\$600
522	3	BOOKS,PERIODICALS & MAN.	\$845	\$0	\$0	\$0
522	6	POSTAGE, UPS, FED EXPRESS	\$902	\$500	\$500	\$500
522	15	GASOLINE & OIL	\$3,990	\$1,151	\$1,151	\$1,151
522	19	UNIFORMS	\$226	\$0	\$0	\$0
522	44	EQUIPMENT LESS THAN \$5000	\$9,610	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800

522	93	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$15,619	\$13,000	\$19,000	\$18,946
		COMMODITIES	\$31,872	\$20,051	\$26,051	\$25,997
533	6	MEDICAL/DENTAL/MENTL HLTH	\$133,925	\$135,000	\$136,308	\$136,000
533	22	LABORATORY FEES	\$52,707	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$50,000
533	29	COMPUTER/INF TCH SERVICES	\$1,824	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	33	TELEPHONE SERVICE	\$3,467	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	36	WASTE DISPOSAL & RECYCLNG	\$3,577	\$3,600	\$3,651	\$3,600
533	40	AUTOMOBILE MAINTENANCE	\$695	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	42	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$5,857	\$1,663	\$1,663	\$1,663
533	51	EQUIPMENT RENTALS	\$129	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	52	OTHER SERVICE BY CONTRACT	\$3,218	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	93	DUES AND LICENSES	\$720	\$0	\$75	\$75
533	94	INVESTIGATION EXPENSE	\$905	\$0	\$0	\$0
533	95	CONFERENCES & TRAINING	\$271	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
534	37	FINANCE CHARGES,BANK FEES	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$0
534	63	INDIGENT BURIAL SERVICES	\$2,935	\$2,000	\$5,600	\$5,600
			\$210,235	\$189,263	\$194,297	\$198,938
		EXPENDITURE TOTALS	\$615,529	\$587,958	\$647,257	\$714,379

ALIGNMENT to STRATEGIC PLAN

County Board Goal 1 – Champaign County is committed to being a high performing, open and transparent local government organization

- The coroner’s office will strive to provide complete and full transparency of all coroner operations subject only to state and federal statutory restrictions.

County Board Goal 2 – Champaign County maintains high quality public facilities and highways and provides a safe rural transportation system and infrastructure

- The coroner’s office will continue to be recognized as a premier morgue facility in Illinois for conducting postmortem examinations required by state statute.

County Board Goal 3 –Champaign County promotes a safe, just and healthy community

- The coroner’s office will continue to be involved in disaster planning/response with county and state agencies.

DESCRIPTION

The coroner investigates and determines the cause and manner of death for every person in his county whose death is suspected of being: a sudden or violent death; a death where the circumstances are suspicious, obscure, mysterious or otherwise unexplained; a death where addiction to alcohol or any drug may have been a contributing factor; and deaths unattended by a licensed physician. The coroner may conduct inquests into deaths falling under his jurisdiction. The role of the coroner in a mass fatality incident is expanded to include recovery and identification of remains.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide comprehensive investigations into deaths falling under the coroner’s authority
2. To conduct inquests on unnatural and questionable deaths when necessary
3. To act in the public interest whenever death occurs
4. To review and investigate all deaths prior to issuing cremation permits

5. To issue temporary and permanent death certificates in a timely manner
6. To assist the public with information relating to organ and tissue donation; SIDS; Do Not Resuscitate Orders (DNR's); and Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA)
7. To continuously update training, education, and preparedness for mass fatality incidents

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Projected	FY2022 Budgeted
Unnatural/questionable deaths investigated	208	212	215
Natural deaths investigated and/or reviewed	1,802	1,922	1,950
Deaths requiring autopsy	145	158	152
Deaths requiring toxicology testing	241	262	250
Cremation permits issued	1166	1232	1300
Hours spent on emergency preparedness	120	40	24

CORONER STATUTORY FEE FUND

Fund 638-042

Per P.A. 96-1161 all fees under 55 ILCS 5/4-7001 collected by or on behalf of the coroner's office shall be paid over to the county treasurer and deposited into a special account in the county treasury. Moneys in the special account shall be used solely for the purchase of electronic and forensic identification equipment or other related supplies and the operating expenses of the coroner's office.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The coroner's office fiscal year 2022 budget reflects several minor increases due to cost increases of goods and services procured by the coroner. An increase in the gasoline and oil line item is necessary due to increased fuel costs over previous years. Increases in the uniforms line item and telephone service line item account for equipment needed for additional staff and an increase in the other services contract is required due to a fee increase instituted by the afterhours answering service utilized by the coroner's office. Additional fees have been, and will continue to be, incurred from the answering service, without additional staff, due to having to frequently transfer office phones during normal business hours due to limited employees available to staff the coroner's office. An increase in the dues and licenses line item was added for the annual permit required to operate our new drug incinerator. A small increase to the investigation expense line item to account for an increase in a web-based program utilized by the coroner's office for locating next of kin during death investigations.

FINANCIAL

Fund 638 Dept 042			2020	2021	2021	2022
			Actual	Original	Projected	Budget
341	41	CORONER STATUTORY FEES	\$0	\$54,000	\$60,000	\$62,000
		FEES AND FINES	\$0	\$54,000	\$60,000	\$62,000
		REVENUE TOTALS	\$0	\$54,000	\$60,000	\$62,000
522	1	STATIONERY & PRINTING	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200
522	2	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$600	\$600	\$600
522	3	BOOKS, PERIODICALS & MAN.	\$0	\$634	\$666	\$666
522	6	POSTAGE, UPS, FED EXPRESS	\$0	\$0	\$2	\$0
522	15	GASOLINE & OIL	\$0	\$3,549	\$4,495	\$4,500
522	19	UNIFORMS	\$0	\$120	\$509	\$700
522	44	EQUIPMENT LESS THAN \$5000	\$0	\$14,500	\$8,617	\$14,500
522	90	ARSENAL & POLICE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
		COMMODITIES	\$0	\$20,103	\$15,589	\$21,666
533	29	COMPUTER/INF TCH SERVICES	\$0	\$1,780	\$1,854	\$1,780
533	33	TELEPHONE SERVICE	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,699	\$5,690
533	40	AUTOMOBILE MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$975	\$586	\$975
533	52	OTHER SERVICE BY CONTRACT	\$0	\$2,988	\$3,597	\$4,100
533	93	DUES AND LICENSES	\$0	\$675	\$841	\$941
533	94	INVESTIGATION EXPENSE	\$0	\$900	\$913	\$1,200
		SERVICES	\$0	\$10,918	\$11,490	\$14,686

EXPENDITURE TOTALS**\$0****\$31,021****\$27,079****\$36,352*****FUND BALANCE***

FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Projected	FY2022 Budgeted
\$0	\$32,921	\$58,569

The fund balance increases are attributed to building up this fund for future equipment and technology uses.

OBJECTIVES

1. Update and maintain state of the art forensic death investigation equipment & facilities.
2. Replace the county's general fund capital equipment purchases for the coroner's office.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Projected	FY2022 Budgeted
Make all Coroner capital equipment purchases from this fund	n/a	\$27,079	\$36,352