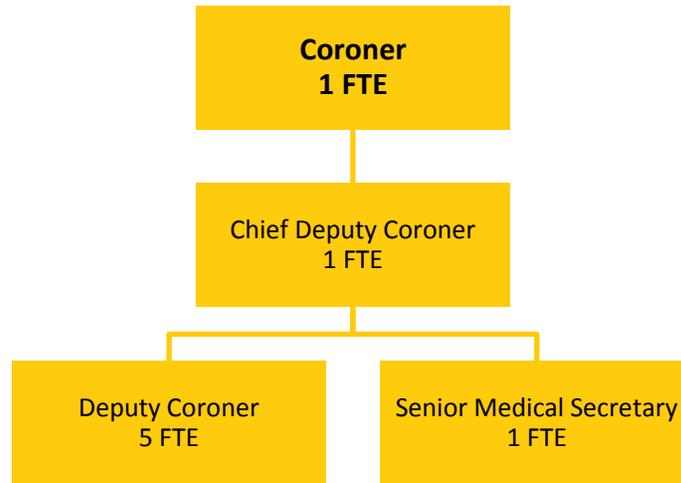


**CORONER**  
**Fund 080-042**



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. The coroner’s office would not be able to sustain the current services provided without an increase of two-additional full-time Deputy Coroner Investigators to assist with these increasing investigational demands.

The fiscal year 2022 coroner budget includes an increase in the regular full-time salaries line item to account for the addition of two Deputy Coroner Investigators. An increase in the overtime line item was necessary to cover holiday pay for all full-time staff required to work the thirteen holidays per year approved in the AFSCME labor contract and cover additional overtime needed when multiple deputies must respond to scene removals when other agencies will not assist. There was an increase in the temporary/part-time salaries line item to account for an increase in the minimum starting wage for autopsy technicians to assist with maintaining adequate staffing levels and reduce transfers to other agencies.

There was a slight increase in the operational supplies line item due to doubling, and in some cases, tripling of costs of supplies over pre-covid years. Costs for forensic toxicology testing increased for fiscal year 2022 resulting in an increase to the laboratory fees line item.

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 necessitating an increase to the indigent burial line item.

**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             |
|                   |    | <b>REVENUE TOTALS</b>                 | <b>\$148,825</b> | <b>\$65,300</b> | <b>\$69,125</b> | <b>\$69,300</b> |
| 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        | \$43,000        |
| 511               | 9  | OVERTIME                              | \$14,414         | \$10,000        | \$26,500        | \$23,000        |
| 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       | \$504,944       |
| 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         |

| Fund 080 Dept 042         |    |                           | 2020             | 2021             | 2021             | 2022             |
|---------------------------|----|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                           |    |                           | Actual           | Original         | Projected        | Budget           |
| 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           | \$2,935          | \$2,000          | \$5,600          | \$5,600          |
|                           |    | SERVICES                  | \$210,235        | \$189,263        | \$194,297        | \$198,938        |
| <b>EXPENDITURE TOTALS</b> |    |                           | <b>\$615,529</b> | <b>\$587,958</b> | <b>\$647,257</b> | <b>\$729,879</b> |

**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**

| <b>Indicator</b>                            | <b>FY2020<br/>Actual</b> | <b>FY2021<br/>Projected</b> | <b>FY2022<br/>Budgeted</b> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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                         |