

**Lane County - Service Option Sheet - FY 23-24 Adopted**

SOS: **Death Investigations**  
 Dept: District Attorney  
 Contact: Patty Perlow 682-4093; Rebecca DeHart 682-4508

Service Category: Public Safety

<b>Mandate</b>	None	Related	<b>SHALL</b>
<b>Leverage</b>	<b>None</b>	Some	HIGH

**Executive Summary**

Lane County Medical-legal Death Investigators are on track to investigate between 1,500 and 1,800 suspicious and unattended deaths over the next year. Our Lead Medical-legal Death Investigator, and Medical-legal Death Investigators work with law enforcement partners, the State Medical Examiner's pathologist assigned to Lane County and others to investigate and report cause and manner of death. Over five full-time employees are required to fully cover a 24/7 post, but we currently have four full-time employees, and a handful of part-time staff who agree to accept on-call shifts, to manage 24/7 coverage.

**Service Descriptions**

	Revenue	Expense Total	General Fund	FTE
<b>Adopted Budget Total</b>	\$106,072	\$1,162,685	\$1,056,613	6.00
<b>Addition</b>	\$0	\$266,109	\$266,109	2.00

The past two years have seen an increase of over 20% in death investigations, including a 110.5% increase in drug overdoses. To maintain 24-hour death investigation services in FY 23-24, it will be necessary to add 1.0 FTE investigator and 1.0 FTE Administrative Support Assistant, to perform office duties currently taking an FTE away from investigator duties." Cost does include one-time expenditures of \$48,900.

<b>Current Service Level</b>	\$106,072	\$896,576	\$790,504	4.00
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Work with law enforcement partners, the State Medical Examiner's pathologist assigned to Lane County, and others to investigate and report the cause and manner of all unattended and suspicious deaths. We remain below threshold staffing. The system will continue functioning at this staffing level only as long as we're able to continue finding qualified staff who are willing to accept "on-call" compensation for working extended weekend and night shifts.

**State/Federal Mandate**

ORS 146.065; 146.075; 146.085; ORS 146.095;

**Leverage Details**

The General Fund portion of this program leverages the following:

_____ \$0	back to the Discretionary General Fund
_____ \$0	into other non Discretionary County Funds
_____ \$0	directly to community members