

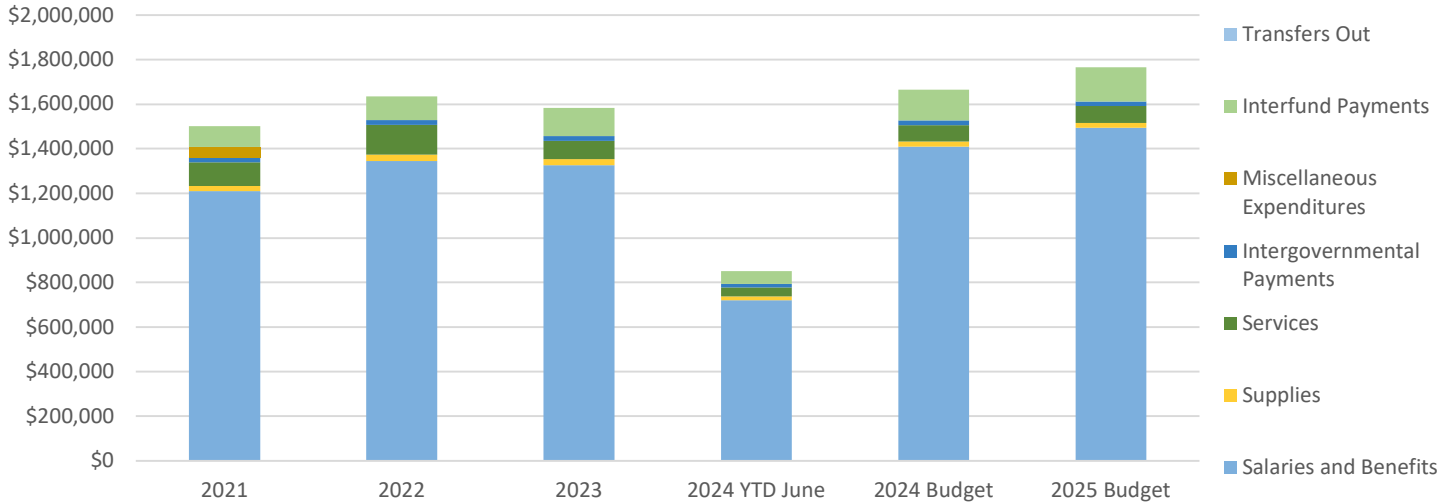
# Medical Examiner

Appointed Official: Dr. Lindsey Harle

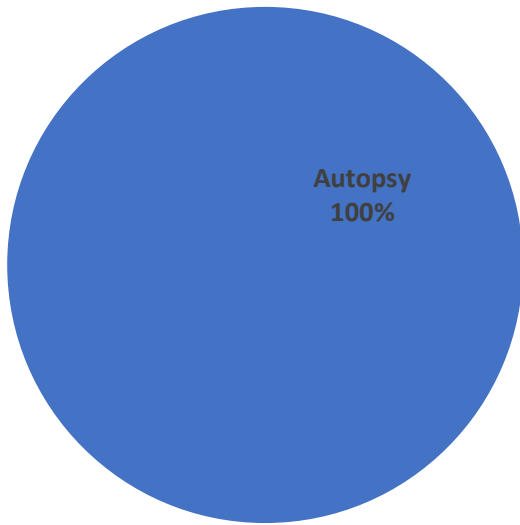
**Mission:** Provide medicolegal death investigation services to determine the manner and cause for jurisdictional deaths that occur within Kitsap County, as mandated by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)68.50.010.

Total Revenue	\$0.09 M
Total Expense	\$1.77 M
Total Budget Change	\$0.10 M
Total FTE	10.40

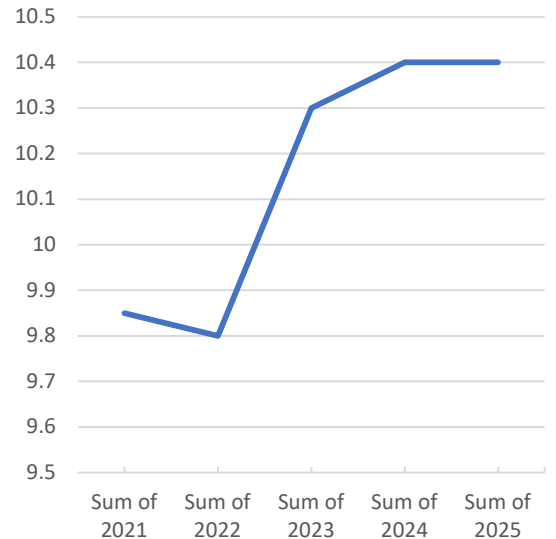
## Summary of Expenses



## Programs



## Total FTE



	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD June	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	\$1,209,144	\$1,344,149	\$1,326,148	\$720,941	\$1,409,778	\$1,494,298	\$84,520
<b>Discretionary Spend</b>	\$200,197	\$184,303	\$130,780	\$72,859	\$117,898	\$117,898	\$0
<b>Other</b>	\$93,157	\$105,793	\$126,487	\$57,450	\$137,784	\$152,939	\$15,155

## Medical Examiner - Budget Request

Summary	Type	2024 Budget	Change	2025 Budget	Description
Salaries and Benefits	Salaries and Benefits	\$1,409,778			
			\$84,520		Status Quo Salaries & Benefits
				\$1,494,298	
Discretionary Spend	Supplies	\$22,500			
			-\$1,000		Move capacity to Services
				\$21,500	
Discretionary Spend	Services	\$74,121			
			\$1,000		Move capacity from Services
					Medical, Dental & Hospital increases
				\$75,121	
Discretionary Spend	Intergovernmental Payments	\$21,277			
				\$21,277	
Discretionary Spend	Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$0			
				\$0	
Other	Interfund Payments	\$137,784			
			\$6,896		IS Rates
			\$6,366		Insurance Services
			\$4,216		ER&R
			-\$2,323		Operating Rentals & Leases reduction
				\$152,939	
Other	Transfers Out	\$0			
				\$0	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,665,460</b>	<b>\$99,675</b>	<b>\$1,765,135</b>	

# Medical Examiner

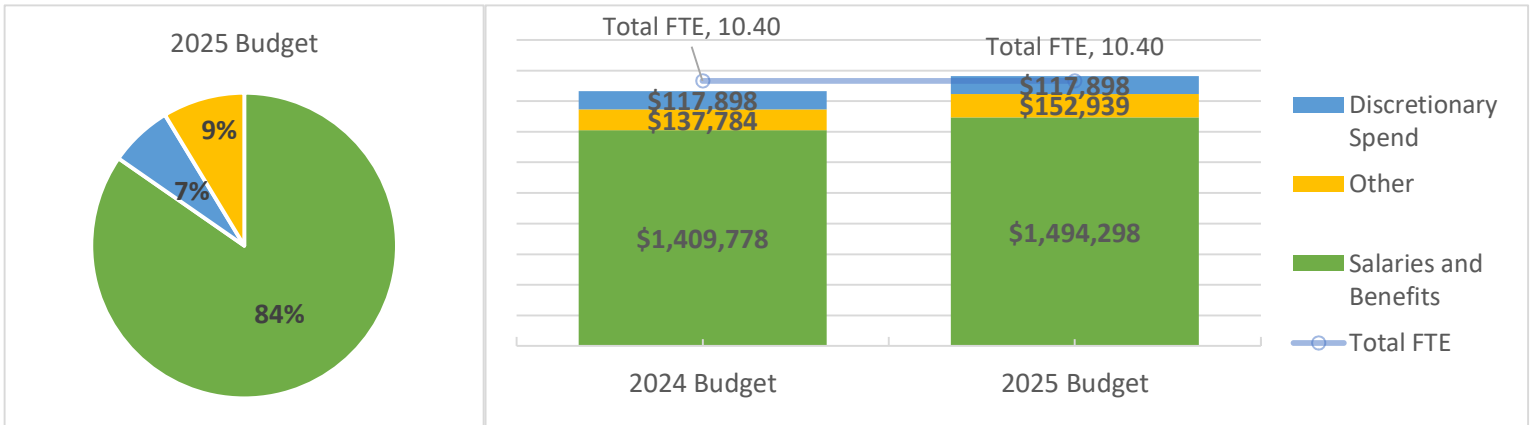
Fund Type: General Fund

**\$1.77 M**

## Autopsy

Budget Change:

\$99,675



### Purpose

Provide medicolegal death investigation services to determine the manner and cause for jurisdictional deaths that occur within Kitsap County, as mandated by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 68.50.010.  
 Assist grieving family members and friends with coping with the loss of their loved ones.  
 Provide regional autopsy and other forensic pathology services. Pursue having 100% of eligible organ and tissue donors having their wishes fulfilled.  
 Provide training, education, and data to other agencies and the public in an effort to minimize untimely deaths.

### Strategy

Promote a safe and healthy community by: providing accurate and timely statistical data, continual interaction with partnering agencies, and continued community outreach.  
 We will promote the service aspect of our office in providing professional and objective, yet compassionate services to our families and other stakeholders.  
 We will promote modern, up to date, services for our community by emphasizing continual training of our personnel, improvement of our capabilities, and maintenance of our facilities in a planned and financially responsible manner .

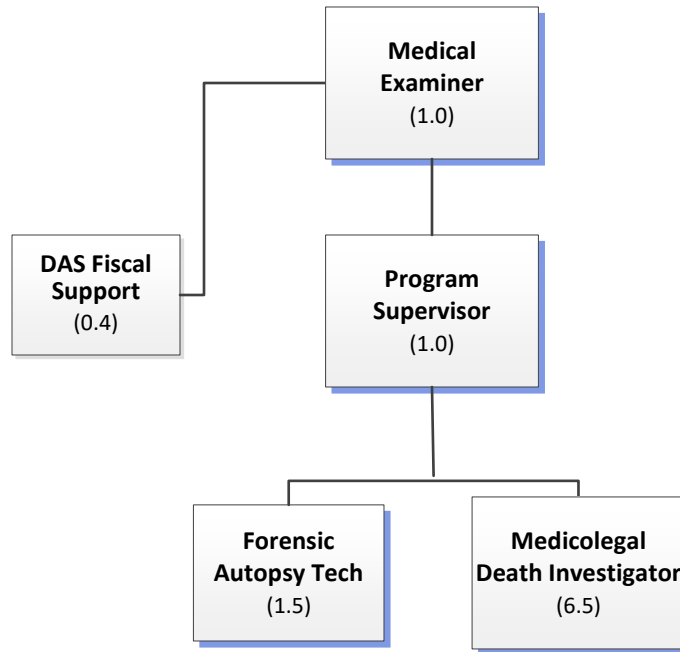
### Results

Participated in High School Mock Crashes in Kitsap County.  
 Provided facility tours and/or talks for schools, civic organizations, and the public.  
 Participated in "Cribs for Kids" program - providing cribs to families who can't afford one (at no cost to the public), and provided training on safe sleeping. Added on-site testing capabilities, through grant awards, to identify substances found at death scenes, and on site identification of potential overdose deaths, and the substances responsible. Automated reporting to Organ Procurement organizations .

	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD June	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>	\$254,012	\$243,564	\$129,057	\$79,859	\$68,750	\$88,000
<b>Expense</b>	\$1,502,498	\$1,634,245	\$1,583,416	\$851,250	\$1,665,460	\$1,765,135
<b>Total FTE</b>	9.85	9.80	10.30		10.40	10.40



# Medical Examiner's Office - 2025



Supplemental Budget Questions for Employing Officials – due to Budget Office August 9th, 2024

1. How does your department/office measure its performance toward the County's Mission, Vision and Values?

We continually track response times to incidents which are critical to other services, particularly emergency services, being able to return to service. We track turn-around times for our investigations and autopsy reports to be completed, which helps families to prepare, cope, and ultimately be able to move forward from the death of a loved one. We provide professional, timely, peer-reviewable and reproducible work to bring certainty in determination of cause and manner of death. This brings comfort to the families of those in our care, provides valuable information to our partners in public health, and provides verifiable information to our partners in law enforcement for the identification and ultimate prosecution of crimes. We work in concert with the veteran's administration as well as community groups and individuals to ensure that those who die in our county without friends or family are compassionately cared for and honored.

2. To help the Commissioners plan for our years, what specific services would hypothetically be impacted or eliminated for your office/department in order to meet budget reductions of 6% in 2026, and how would that impact the community? Are there any potential revenue enhancements or process improvements which could make up all or a portion of the 6% target? Please indicate the dollar amount and specific number of FTEs and/or programmatic reductions which would be necessary to meet that 6% goal.

. All of our current non-personnel expenses are fairly well fixed and required to comply with certification, health, and safety requirements. In order to cut 6% from our budget we would be forced to eliminate our part-time positions. The resultant overtime from this would off-set the savings. The only way to realize actual budgetary savings in our operations would be to limit availability of personnel for investigations. This would result in us having no coverage for approximately 6 hours each day. This would require other responding agencies (Sheriff's Department, Police agencies, Fire, and EMS) to remain on scene during those uncovered hours until an investigator came on duty.

3. How has the organization's staffing changed in the last five years and why? Please discuss vacancy, turnover and overtime if applicable.

Our FTE count has grown by 1 over the last 5 years. In an effort to maximize the impact of that position, it was split into 2 part-time FTE's. This allows for coverage in both field investigations, and in autopsy technician coverage, reducing overtime needs. We have also been able to work in concert with Human Resources, and DAS to implement a Pathologist coverage system that has saved an average of over \$50,000.00/year over the traditional practice of hiring an independent contractor to provide those services

4. What emerging challenges do you expect your department/office to face in the next three years? Please highlight current demand for services or gaps, what things are not being done, or legislative changes impacting demand for services.

The influx of drug related deaths, particularly synthetically derived drugs, have more than tripled over the last 3 years, and the trend appears to be maintaining. The population of the county also continues to increase, bringing with it an increased number of deaths that our office is statutorily obligated to investigate.

New legislation requires that by July of 2025, all death investigation offices be:

Accredited by either the IACME or NAME

All death investigators be either Washington State or ABMDI certified

All autopsies must be performed in accredited facilities to be eligible for continued state reimbursement.

Our office currently meets all certification and training requirements of this legislation.