

Medical Examiner

Department Summary

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Adopted Budget	FY 2004 Current Budget	FY 2005 Adopted Budget
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Operating Expenses	\$163,525	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Expenditure Totals	\$163,525	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Number of FTEs	0	0	0	0
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Department Description

The Medical Examiner is responsible for investigating deaths in the county that are unattended or occur under questionable circumstances. The Medical Examiner determines the cause and manner of death and orders an autopsy if necessary. If the death resulted from a criminal act or default on the part of another person, the Medical Examiner continues the investigation to whatever extent necessary to assist law enforcement authorities in determining or apprehending the person (s) criminally responsible. The current Medical Examiner's function is part of a statewide system that is supervised and financed primarily at the State level.

The fee for a Medical Examiner investigation is \$75. Effective January 1, 1999, the fee per autopsy was increased from \$400 to \$1,000 per case. The respective county pays the fee for medical examinations if the

deceased is a resident of the county in which the death or fatal injury occurs; otherwise, the State will pay the fee.

In April 2002, WakeMed notified the County that it would no longer provide Medical Examiner services effective July 1, 2003. The State Medical Examiner in Chapel Hill will have the responsibility to select the Medical Examiner (s) for the County.

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