

Pinal County Medical Examiner Proposal

September 7, 2016



PINAL • COUNTY

Wide open opportunity

Current Status

- Medical Examiner spends about \$800k annually
- Calendar year 2015: 227 Autopsies, 68 External Examinations
- IGA with Pima County
 - About \$400k annual flat rate for up to 225 autopsies/externals with 3% escalator
 - If 225 used, ~\$1,778 per autopsy
 - Over 225, Pinal is charged the published fee, currently \$2,300 per autopsy
- Contract with 2 doctors to perform external examinations at the Pinal County site for about \$30,000.

Proposal

- FY 16/17 budget target excluding health insurance is \$730k
- Let the IGA with Pima expire this Dec. 19th
- Create Chief Medical Examiner position and hire an additional Medico-Legal Investigator to cross train and focus on autopsy preparation – Cost including EREs estimated at \$285,000
- Net increase in non-personnel costs ~\$35k-45k
- Annual operating cost savings ~\$70-80k
- One-time expenditure to prepare facility for autopsy suite and configure offices ~\$135K. Since our current IGA is prepaid through mid December, no additional General Fund budget request would be needed.

Benefits

- Local service provides easier coordination with stakeholders and less travel
- Medico-Legal Investigator travel time ~ 400 hrs annually – valued at ~\$11k
- Law enforcement attends ~175 cases annually – travel time approximately valued at ~\$17k
- Funeral homes charge ~\$160 additional transportation cost to families
- May save ~\$10k annually for County Attorney's Office Medical Expert Witness fees
- National Association of Medical Examiners performance standard up to 325 autopsies per year per forensic pathologist
- Potential to IGA with other counties and tribal communities with current capacity for ~\$100k in revenue
- Note: Pima County offered to IGA the entire service which would cost ~\$820k with significantly reduced local service