

Mission

The mission of the Franklin County Coroner's Office (FCCO) is to serve and protect the interests of the community by maintaining the highest standard of professionalism and integrity in determining the cause and manner of death. FCCO staff are a dedicated team that is committed to providing excellence, compassion, and respect to every family and community member.

Strategic Focus

Primary Initiative: Coroner Case Completion - Coroner Case Completion - To continue retaining National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation, the FCCO needs to be able to provide case completion to the community in a timely manner. It is a priority to complete pathology cases within 60 calendar days for 90% of cases.

Primary Issue: Accreditation Status - Accreditation Status - Coroner Case Completion. To maintain National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accreditation, the FCCO needs to complete cases in a timely manner. It is a high priority of complete 90 percent of pathology cases within 60 calendar days.

In 2024, the FCCO has been able to reduce the use of locums to de minimis levels; in 2025, the FCCO does not expect to use locums except in rare circumstances. The FCCO currently has eight forensic pathologists, one less than full staffing.

In 2025, FCCO will continue to utilize scanning technology, employ at least one Pathology Assistant, and create partnerships to move cases forward rapidly and within accreditation guidelines. The FCCO will be moving the Forensic Pathology Fellowship program forward in 2024 and 2025. - The FCCO staff continues to make the structural changes necessary to provide Coroner's Reports in a timely fashion.

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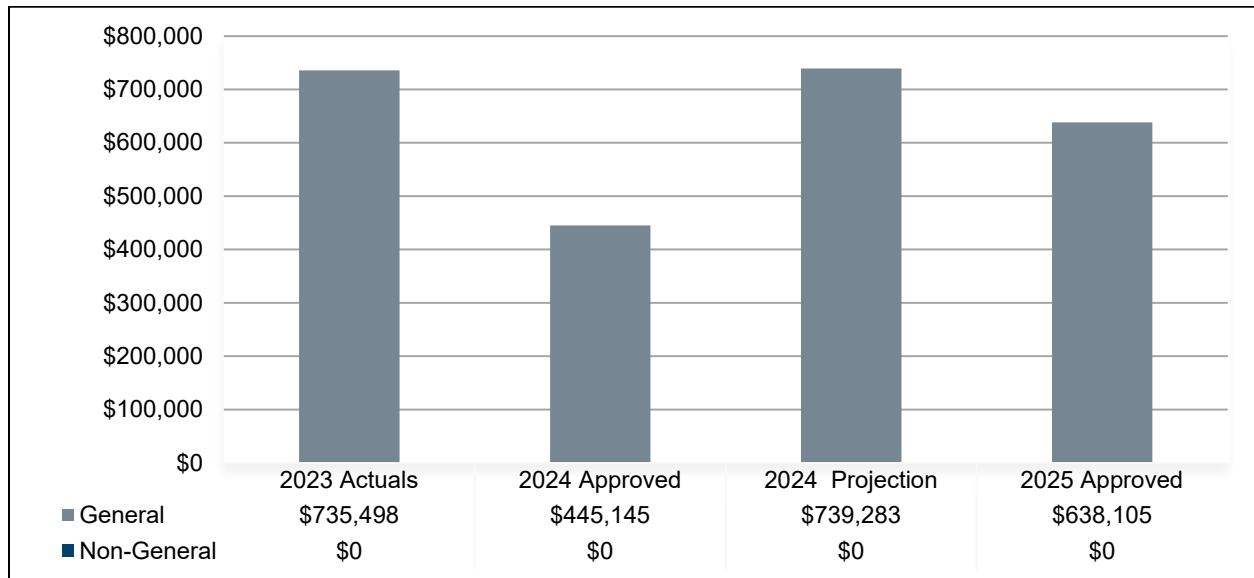
Performance Spotlight

Measure: Percent of pathology cases completed within 60 calendar days

Program: Pathology

About this measure		Why it is important	
This measure tracks the number of pathology cases completed within 60 calendar days or less. The completion of Pathology cases is dependent upon prior completion of Toxicology and Investigative reports, receipt of decedent's medical records and results of specialized testing.		This measure supports that the families of decedents will have the case reports in a timely fashion to provide closure, protect the interest of community and allow for justice to be served.	
What is being done			
The Coroner's Office staff continues to work diligently to provide Coroner's Reports in a timely fashion. Internal and external resources are being utilized to maintain respect to families and the community.			
2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Projected	2025 Budget
81.3%	78.0%	84.0%	88.0%

Budget Summary – Revenues



Primary Revenue Sources by Fund Type

Fund Type	Fund Name (Number)	Primary Revenue Sources
General	• General Fund (1000)	• Grant Receipts • Out of County Autopsies
Special	None	N/A
Debt	None	N/A
Capital	None	N/A
Enterprise /Internal	None	N/A

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance \$	%
General Fund	\$445,145	\$739,283	\$294,138	66.1%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$445,145	\$739,283	\$294,138	66.1%

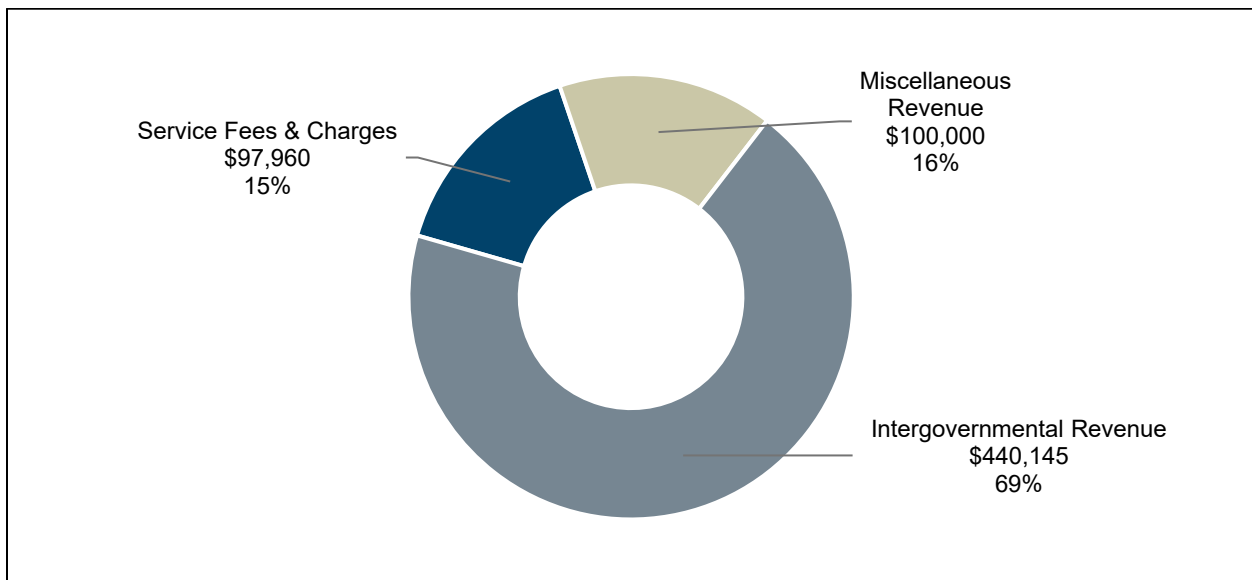
The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2024 Projection is primarily attributed to receipt of the Overdose to Action Grant, which was not included in the 2024 Budget, as well as receipt of the final monies from the American Rescue Plan Act Toxicology Grant.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Approved

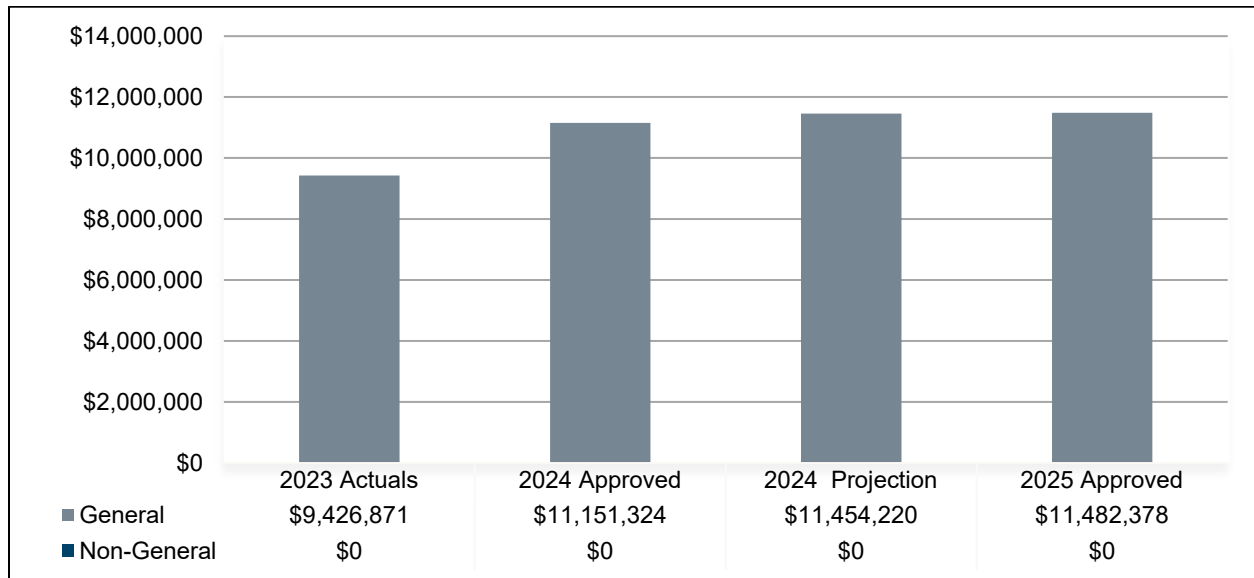
	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance \$	%
General Fund	\$445,145	\$638,105	\$192,960	43.3%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$445,145	\$638,105	\$192,960	43.3%

The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget is primarily attributed to the Overdose to Action Grant being included in the Requested Budget.

**2025 Approved Budget
Revenues by Category**



Budget Summary – Expenditures



Significant items in the 2025 Approved Budget

Object Code	Budgeted Amount	% of Budget
PERSONAL SERVICES & FRINGE	\$8,777,933	76.4%
BODY TRANSPORT SERVICES	\$750,000	6.5%
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$375,000	3.3%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-OTHER	\$370,000	3.2%
SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES	\$296,000	2.6%
IT SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION AND MAINTENANCE	\$193,021	1.7%
LAB & TESTING SERVICES	\$129,000	1.1%
PERISHABLE REAGENTS	\$72,000	0.6%
OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$64,100	0.6%
MEDICAL/LAB/THERAPEUTIC EQUIP	\$50,000	0.4%
<i>Other</i>	\$405,324	3.5%
Total	\$11,482,378	100.0%

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2024 Projection

	2024 Approved	2024 Projection	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$11,151,324	\$11,454,220	\$302,896	2.7%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$11,151,324	\$11,454,220	\$302,896	2.7%

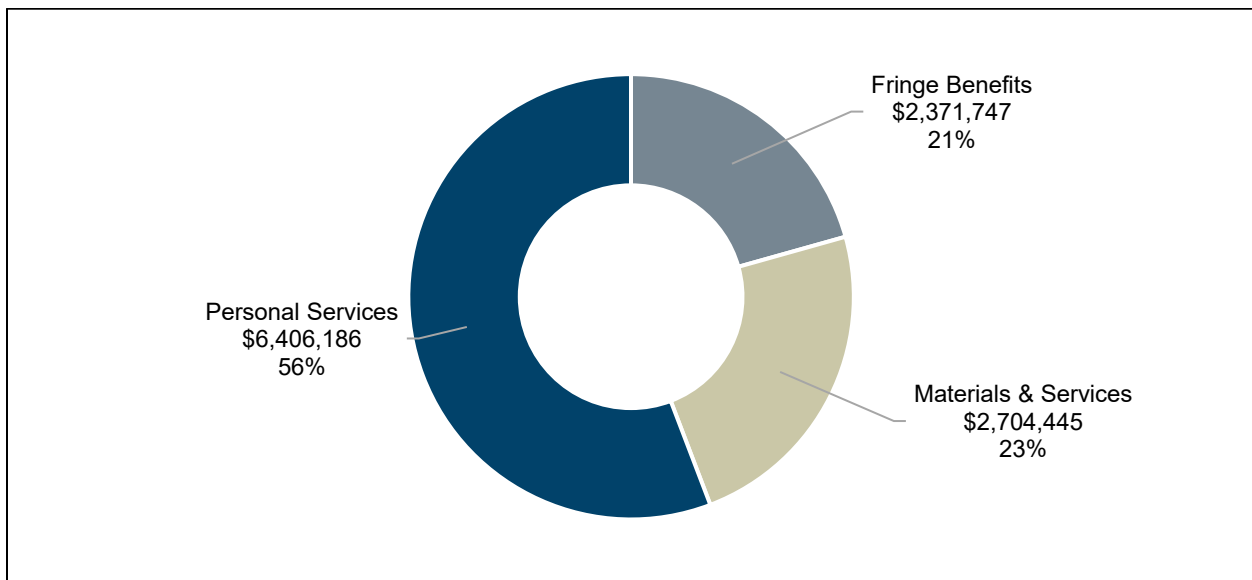
The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2024 Projection is primarily attributed to increased costs for a new body transport contract, and the purchase of toxicology equipment from a prior-year American Rescue Plan Act grant.

Comparison: 2024 Approved to 2025 Approved

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
General Fund	\$11,151,324	\$11,482,378	\$331,054	3.0%
Non-General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total	\$11,151,324	\$11,482,378	\$331,054	3.0%

The variance from the 2024 Approved Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget is primarily attributed to a reduction in the vacancy credit, due to the filling of Pathologist positions during 2024.

**2025 Approved Budget
Expenditures by Category**



Budget Summary – FTEs

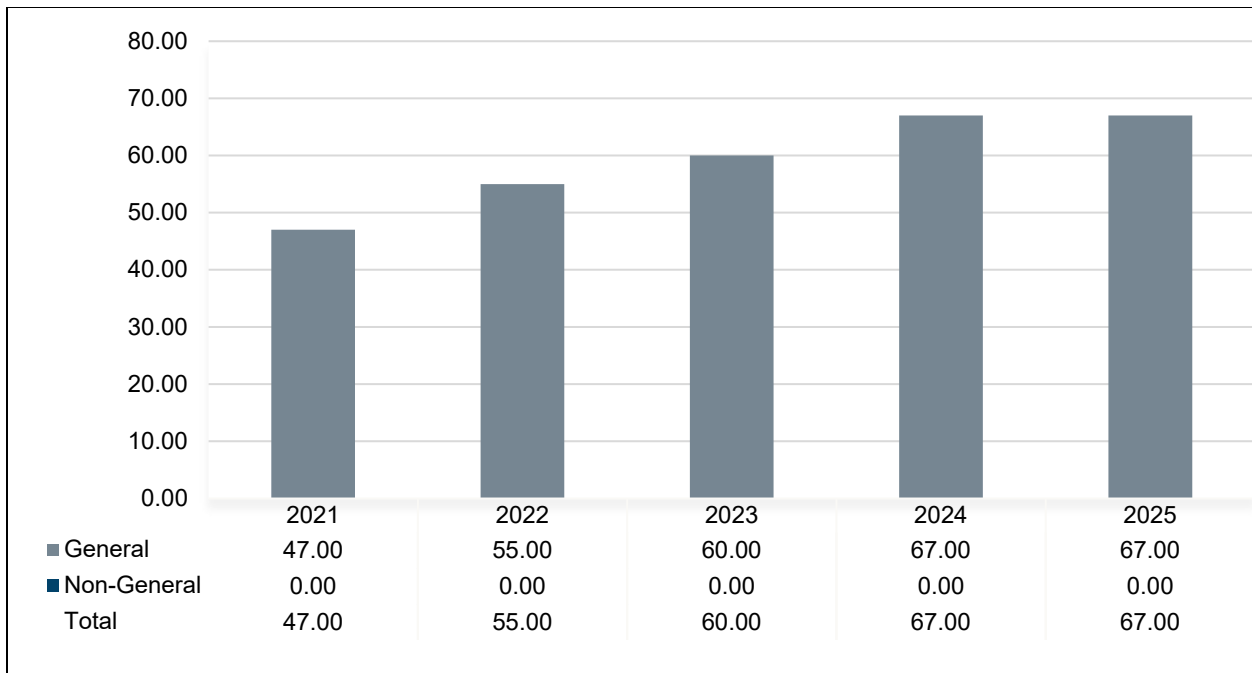
	2024 Budget	2025 Approved	Approved Budget as % of Total FTEs
General Fund	67.00	67.00	100.0%
Non-General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Agency FTEs	67.00	67.00	100.0%

There is no change in the number of FTEs from the 2024 Budget to the 2025 Approved Budget.

New Positions

Position Title	# of Positions	Annual Salary	Source
<i>None</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Budgeted FTE History



Vacancy Credit

The vacancy credit process is designed to more accurately reflect the expenditures for Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits within the agency budget request. The calculations for the budget process begin with funding all approved positions for the entire year excluding new positions contained in a Request for Results. Vacancy credits take into account that not all approved positions will be filled for the entire year. The methodology historically used to estimate an agency's vacancy credit utilizes a four-year history of unused personnel budgets to determine an appropriate percentage of Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits that will likely remain unspent at the end of the year. However, vacancy credits may vary from the four-year average due to staffing trends or the number of positions supported within a fund. Vacancy Credits may also differ between Salaries & Wages and Fringe Benefits due to the timing and fixed amount charged for healthcare.

Salaries & Wages

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Approved	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	5.9%	7.6%	4.3%	(\$281,953)	67.00

Fringe Benefits

	2024 Budget	Four-year Average	2025 Approved	2025 Credit	2025 FTEs
General Fund	7.4%	10.8%	8.8%	(\$235,416)	67.00

Previously vacant Pathologist positions have been filled, resulting in a Vacancy Credit lower than the four-year average.

Toxicology

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Toxicology Program is to provide thorough, accurate and timely toxicology testing results. This service is provided for the forensic pathologists of the Franklin County Coroner's Office, as well as regional coroners, law enforcement and public health officials, to assist in the solution or interpretation of toxicology issues. The information can be used to educate the public

Primary Services

- Screen for drugs, confirm and quantified in biological specimens and drug evidence or paraphernalia
- Draft toxicology reports with biological and drug levels; may interpret and provide toxicology opinions and testimony
- Establish chain of custody for specimens and drug evidence or paraphernalia
- Provide toxicology lectures and presentations; attend outside meetings and trainings

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$663,423	\$715,092	\$51,669	7.8%
Fringe Benefits	\$300,269	\$299,916	(\$353)	-0.1%
Materials & Services	\$372,447	\$428,125	\$55,678	14.9%
Total Expenditures	\$1,336,139	\$1,443,133	\$106,994	8.0%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

The Toxicology Program provides community safety, security, and effective justice by providing forensic results as facts to determine cause and manner of death; as evidence in civil or criminal cases; and as data for public health officials which can be used to educate the community on preventable deaths

Pathology

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Pathology Program is to provide forensic examination services for the county coroners so they can determine the manner and cause of death.

Primary Services

- Perform forensic autopsies, forensic external examinations, and medical chart reviews
- Produce a forensic examination/autopsy report documenting forensic examination findings through dictation, body chart diagrams, and photography
- Collect tissue samples for histologic processing and interpretation including special stains; collect specimens and interpret bacterial cultures and viral polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing
- Provide expert court testimony and deposition in the field of forensic pathology

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$2,689,745	\$2,976,719	\$286,974	10.7%
Fringe Benefits	\$683,044	\$726,748	\$43,704	6.4%
Materials & Services	\$1,838,287	\$1,789,544	(\$48,743)	-2.7%
Capital Outlays	\$2,500	\$0	(\$2,500)	-100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$5,213,576	\$5,493,011	\$279,435	5.4%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

The Pathology Program supports public health and the judicial system by determining the cause and manner of death. This information is used to alert and educate the public about potential health issues and causes of preventable deaths. It is also utilized as unbiased forensic information for the judicial system.

Records & Outreach

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Records & Outreach Program is to provide case file management services to staff and the public so they can access data pertaining to the death of an individual or groups of individuals, to provide information to the public so they can know the services provided by, and the responsibilities of, their elected official's office, and to utilize experiential learning opportunities to educate future medical, legal, and forensic professionals as well as providing professional development opportunities.

Primary Services

- Compile case reports, produce death certificates, respond to public records requests
- Attend mandated meetings, Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Subcommittee and Child Fatality Review Boards; other meeting attendance, Children's Hospital Trauma Conferences, OSU Trauma Conferences, Drug Overdose Drug Initiative, Domestic Violence Fatality Review, and Suicide Review.
- Provide forensic rotations and fellowships for medical students, physicians, and interns
- Produce specific community reports, an annual report, brochures for families, community hospitals, and physicians

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$896,054	\$818,298	(\$77,756)	-8.7%
Fringe Benefits	\$445,389	\$396,643	(\$48,746)	-10.9%
Materials & Services	\$194,006	\$333,676	\$139,670	72.0%
Total Expenditures	\$1,535,449	\$1,548,617	\$13,168	0.9%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

The Records & Outreach Program strengthens the bond between the public safety offices, courts, and the community by meeting the requirements of the Ohio Public Records Law which requires that the office provides for prompt inspection of the records and copies within a responsible amount of time.

Investigations

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Investigations Program is to provide medicolegal death investigation; information, identification, and notification services to staff members, law enforcement agencies, and families, so they can be informed in a timely and accurate manner as obligations to the deceased are fulfilled.

Primary Services

- Perform death investigations with written scene reports, supplemental documentation, photographic scene documentation and evidence collection
- Identify Decedents, search for next of kin and give notifications
- Attain American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation credential
- Coordinate Intra-agency/interagency investigations

Program Budget Overview

	2024	2025	Variance	
	Approved	Approved	\$	%
Personal Services	\$1,088,639	\$1,027,820	(\$60,819)	-5.6%
Fringe Benefits	\$603,524	\$466,596	(\$136,928)	-22.7%
Materials & Services	\$50,500	\$50,200	(\$300)	-0.6%
Total Expenditures	\$1,742,663	\$1,544,616	(\$198,047)	-11.4%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

Provide quality customer service to next-of-kin and residents through efficient and effective internal services by conducting and producing medicolegal death investigations.

Morgue

Program Purpose

Provide decedent preparation for examination, to secure body storage, and to process forensic specimens for the Forensic Pathologists as well as for the toxicology department so that proper examinations and analysis can be performed in a safe and efficient manner while ensuring chain of custody.

Primary Services

- Prepare body for postmortem examination and assist in examination procedures; prepare histology specimens
- Provide forensic photography and positive identification of decedents
- Maintain chain of custody of the body and evidence obtained from the body during the examination
- Provide storage of bodies until arrangements can be made by next of kin; secure storage of property and valuables and ensuring their proper release to family members; facilitate unclaimed body dispositions

Program Budget Overview

	2024 Approved	2025 Approved	Variance	
			\$	%
Personal Services	\$758,282	\$868,257	\$109,975	14.5%
Fringe Benefits	\$451,708	\$481,844	\$30,136	6.7%
Materials & Services	\$107,507	\$102,900	(\$4,607)	-4.3%
Capital Outlays	\$6,000	\$0	(\$6,000)	-100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$1,323,497	\$1,453,001	\$129,504	9.8%

Funding Source

- General Fund

Core Principle and Linkage

Provide Community Safety, Security & Effective Justice

The Morgue Program supports Forensic Pathology in documentation of injuries, collecting evidence, processing specimens for effective justice. It also helps provide community safety and security to the residents of Franklin County families by helping them navigate through the most difficult time in their life. This is done by guiding and educating the families on the final disposition of their loved ones. Accommodations are made for vulnerable families for their religious beliefs and cultures.