



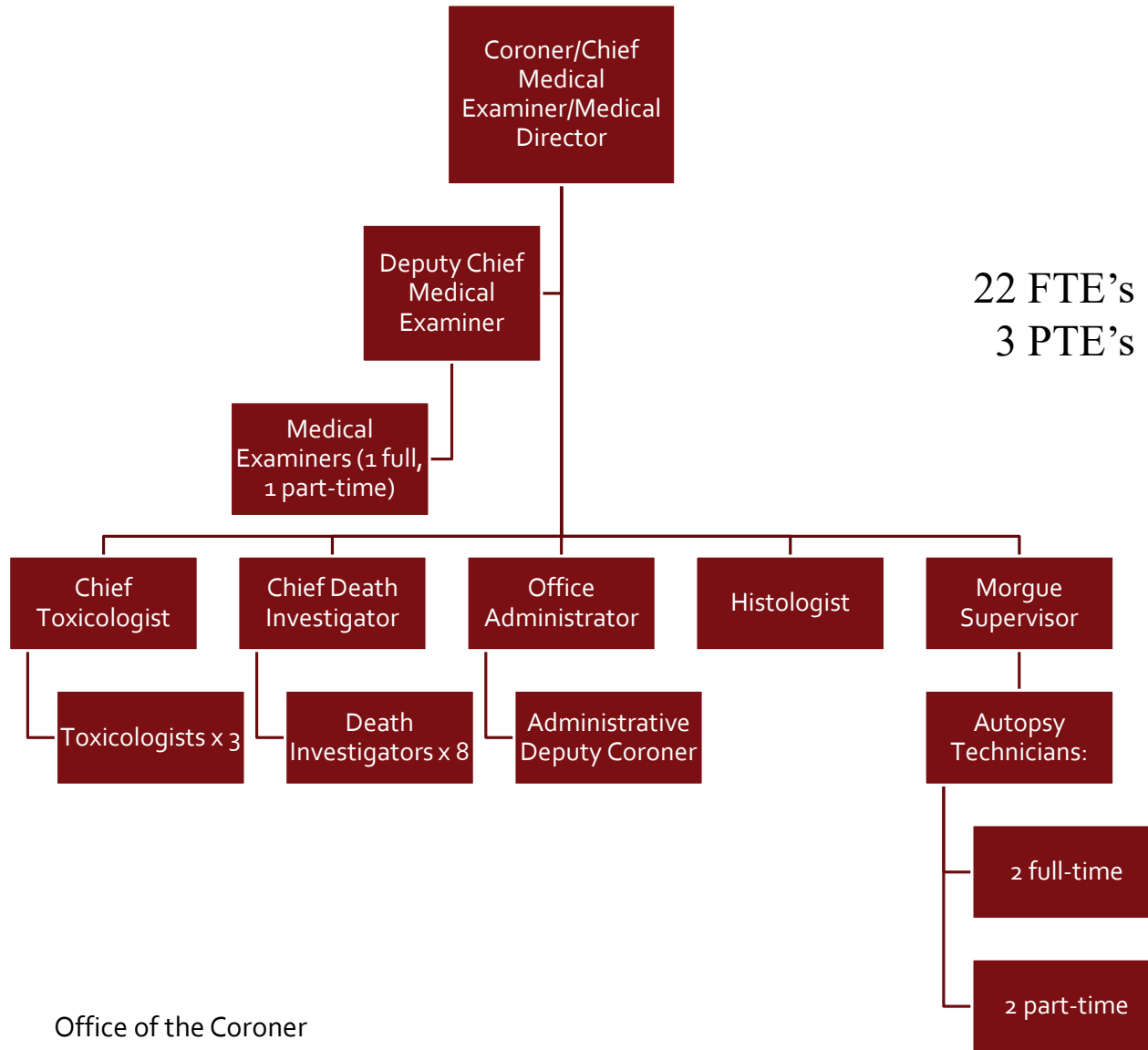
2020 Budget Presentation Office of the Coroner

Leon Kelly, M.D.

Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner

October 17, 2019

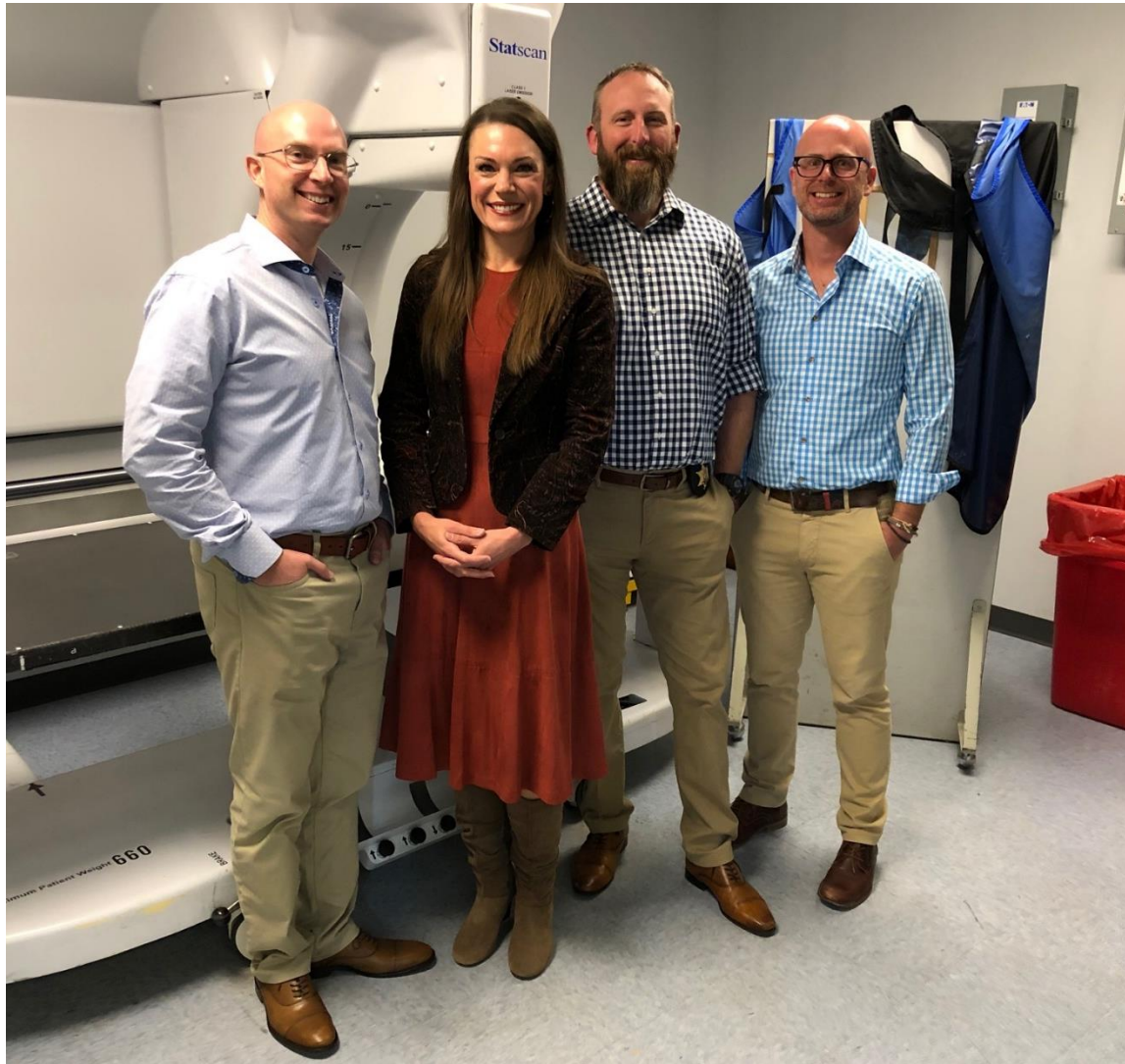
Organizational Chart



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Medical Examiners



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Death Investigators



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Administrative



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Autopsy Technicians



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Histology



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Toxicology



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CRS: 30-10-606

- The Coroner shall... make all proper inquiry respecting the cause and manner of death of any person in his/her jurisdiction who has died under any of the following circumstances:
 - From external violence, unexplained cause, or under suspicious circumstances
 - Where no physician is in attendance or where though in attendance, the physician is unable to certify the cause of death
 - From thermal, chemical, or radiation injury
 - From disease which may be hazardous or contagious or which may constitute a threat to the health of the general public
 - While in custody of law enforcement officials or while incarcerated in a public institution
 - When the death was sudden and happened to a person who was in good health
 - From an industrial accident



CRS: 30-10-606

❖ Statutory Responsibilities:

- Rule CAUSE and MANNER of death
- Pronouncement of death
- Identify the decedent
- Determination of how injury occurred
- Collect evidence from body used to prove or disprove an individual's guilt or innocence
- Confirm or deny the account of how the death occurred
- Document any natural disease
- Determine or exclude other contributory or causative factors to the death
- Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil proceedings
- Grant or deny tissue for harvest



Strategic Plans and Goals

- Improve service by decreasing turn-around time for autopsy reports:
 - Decrease in report completion from 32 days (2018) to 20.6 days
 - Decrease in Tox report completion from 20 to 15.7 days
 - NFLIS reports avg. 61.6 days for public labs and 36.5 days for all labs
- Lower administrative costs allowing shift to work force:
 - Dragon Medical Transcription reduced admin staffing by 1FT/1PT (\$55K) and improvement in report turn-around times
 - Fully staffed with 9th full-time investigator
- Focus on supporting staff mental health through secondary trauma counseling:
 - Violence and trauma exposed staff ordered minimum of 4 counseling session per year with secondary trauma trained therapists
 - YTD: \$3210 (program costs off-set with Chief Medical Examiner salary reduction)



Strategic Plans and Goals

- Increase agency transparency:
 - Unprecedented engagement with local media and community
 - Open data sharing with public health, law enforcement, local hospitals, community working groups, and non-profits
- Update of Medical Examiner laboratory information system:
 - Actively developing update to our prior computer system (2012) allowing web-based access, improved real-time statistics and analytics, improved work-flow and better service to our out-of-county coroners
 - Funded by our unfilled medical examiner salary
- Under-staffing of Medical Examiners
 - Signed letter of intent for new forensic pathologist starting in July, 2020
- Cost increase for OOC autopsies:
 - Due to increase staffing costs, expanded toxicology analysis, and in-house neuropathology consultation, price of autopsy will increase \$50 to \$1500 starting January 1, 2020



2020 Budgetary Highlights

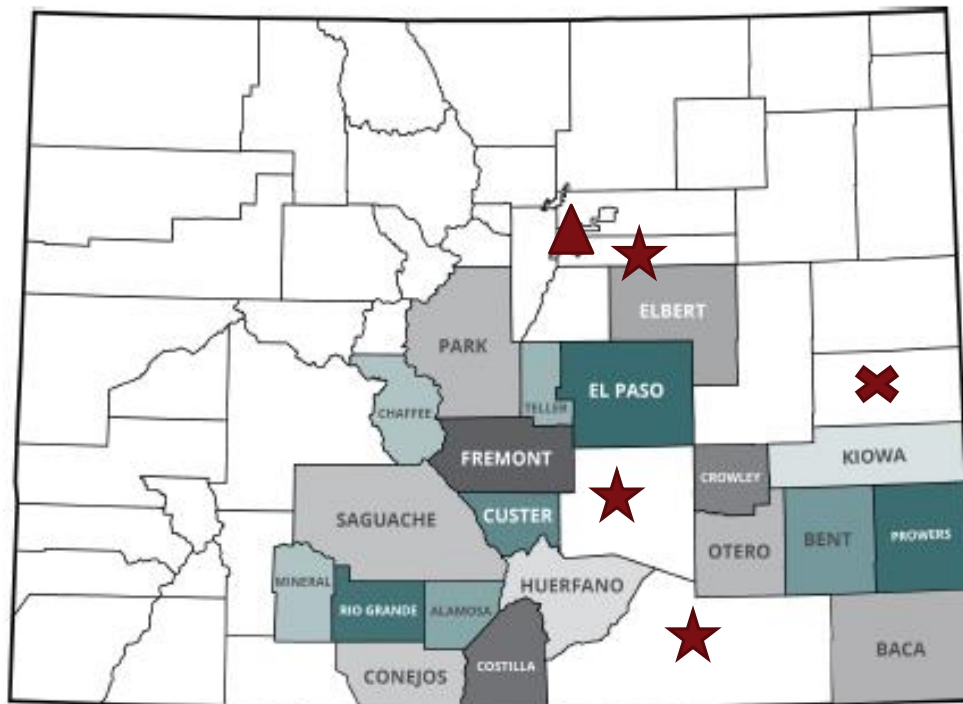
Item	Cost
Full-time salary	\$2,197,816
Part-time salary	\$176,000
FICA	\$182,974
Admin supplies/equipment	\$52,600
Lab supplies, Maintenance	\$223,409
Fleet	\$6,025
Development/training	\$3,500
Outside consultation	\$10,000
	Total: \$2,852,324*

* Same as 2019 budget, **NO critical needs identified**



2019 Revenues

- ★ Tox
- ✘ Autopsy 2019
- ▲ Clinical Testing



ALAMOSA	31	60	FREMONT
BACA	4	24	HUERFANO
BENT	6	2	KIOWA
CHAFFEE	28	4	MINERAL
CONEJOS	10	24	OTERO
COSTILLA	12	20	PARK
CROWLEY	9	11	PROWERS
CUSTER	19	16	RIO GRANDE
EL PASO	844	18	SAGUACHE
ELBERT	18	38	TELLER

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2019 Revenues

(Autopsy, Toxicology, Clinical Studies, Histology, Grants)

	2018	2019
Year to date (10/9)	469,212.50	564,560
Total for year	571,837.50	650,000 (estimate)*

* 12% increase over 2018 and 18% increase over 2017



2018 Regional Comparisons

	El Paso	Denver	Arapaho
Autopsies	891	683	384
External Exams	307	467	222
Adjusted Autopsy Equivalents	77 (4:1 ratio)	116 (4:1 ratio)	56 (4:1 ratio)
Adjusted Total Autopsies	968	799	440
Budget	\$2,852,324*	\$3,358,188	\$1,705,200
Budget-Revenue= total cost	\$2,202,324★	\$3,358,188	\$1,705,200

*\$3.90 per capita

★\$3.01 per capita



2019 NAME Accreditation Inspection Summary

- “The office of the El Paso County Coroner is an accomplished and highly functioning modern office that serves its jurisdictional county well. The office is efficiently and excellently staffed, with very high moral and enthusiasm. Overall, the office as a whole is a stellar example of a highly professional medicolegal death investigation system operating in a coroners jurisdiction.”
- “It is also noteworthy that El Paso County Coroner’s Office staff make many important contributions to the community above and beyond providing high quality medicolegal death investigations.”
- “El Paso County should take pride in the Office of the County Coroner and its leadership and staff.”





Office of the Coroner



Questions?

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