

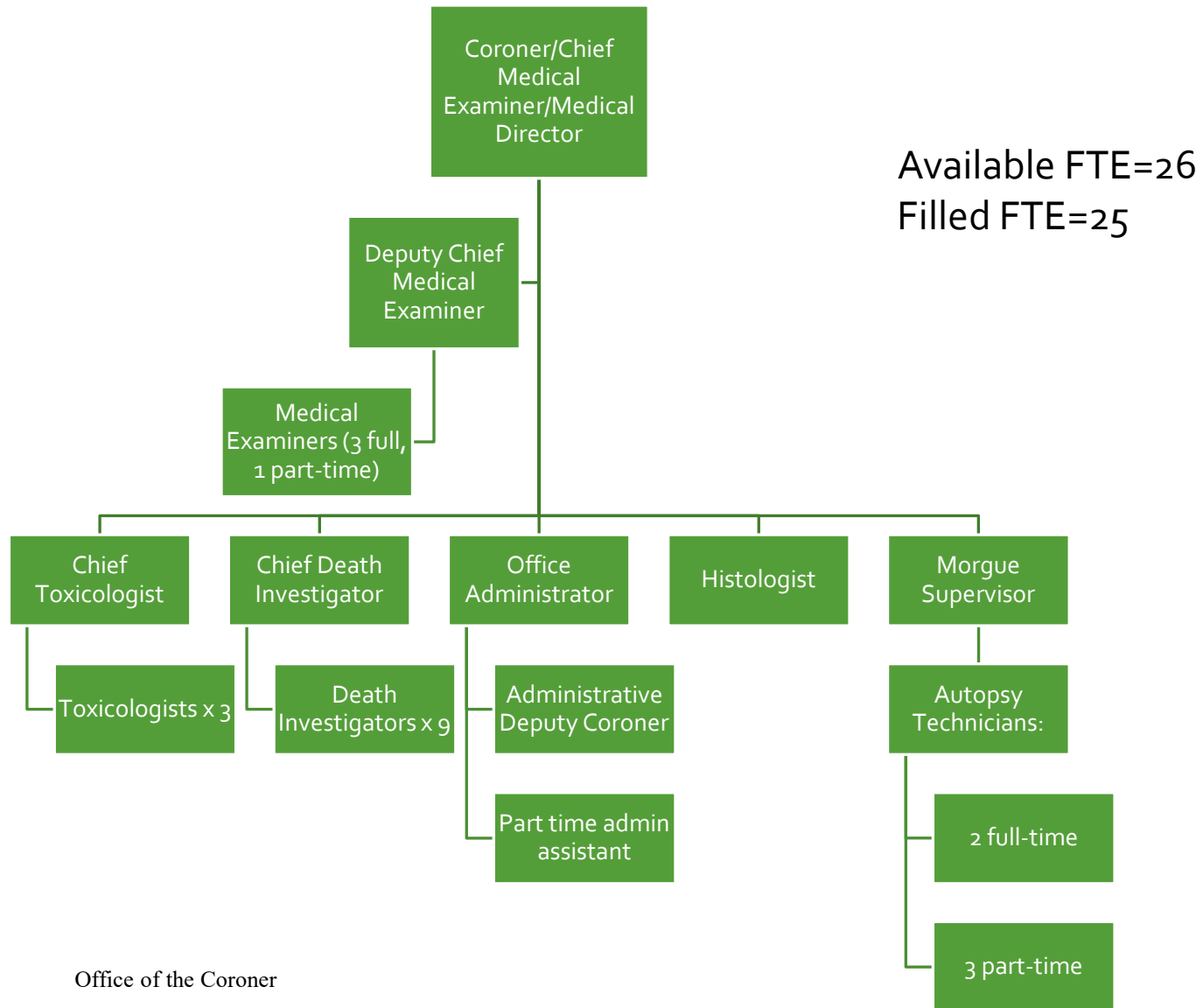


2022 Budget Presentation Office of the Coroner

Leon Kelly, M.D.

October 19th, 2021

Organizational Chart



Office of the Coroner



Medical Examiners



Office of the Coroner



Death Investigators



Office of the Coroner

Administrative



Office of the Coroner



Autopsy Technicians



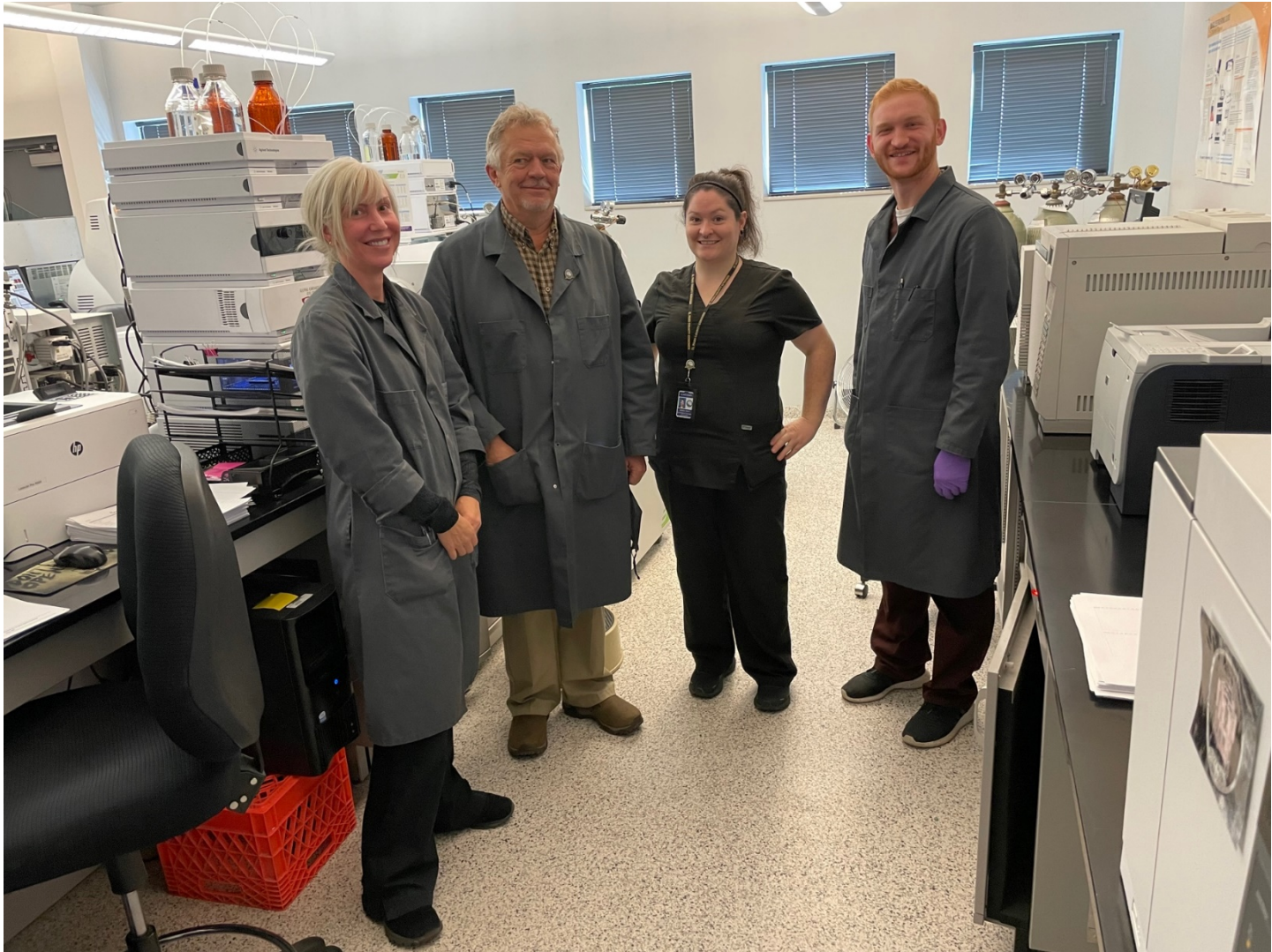
Histology



Office of the Coroner



Toxicology



Office of the Coroner



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

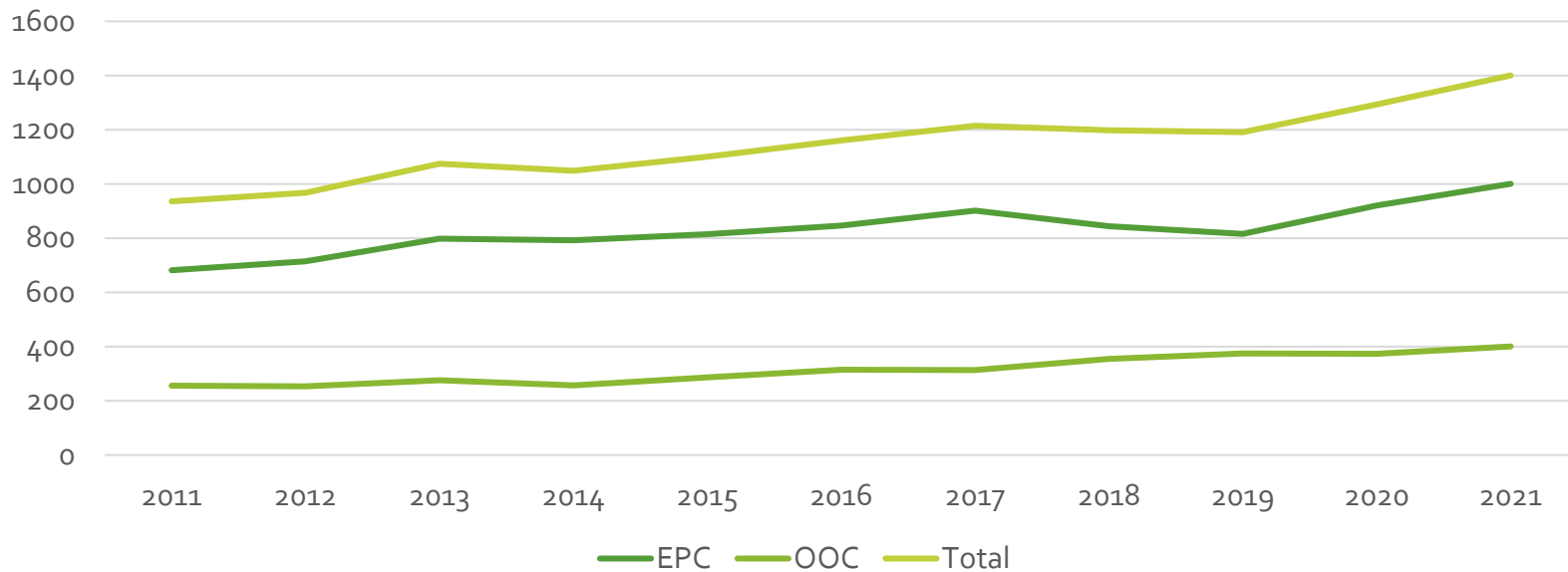
❖ Statutory Responsibilities:

- 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

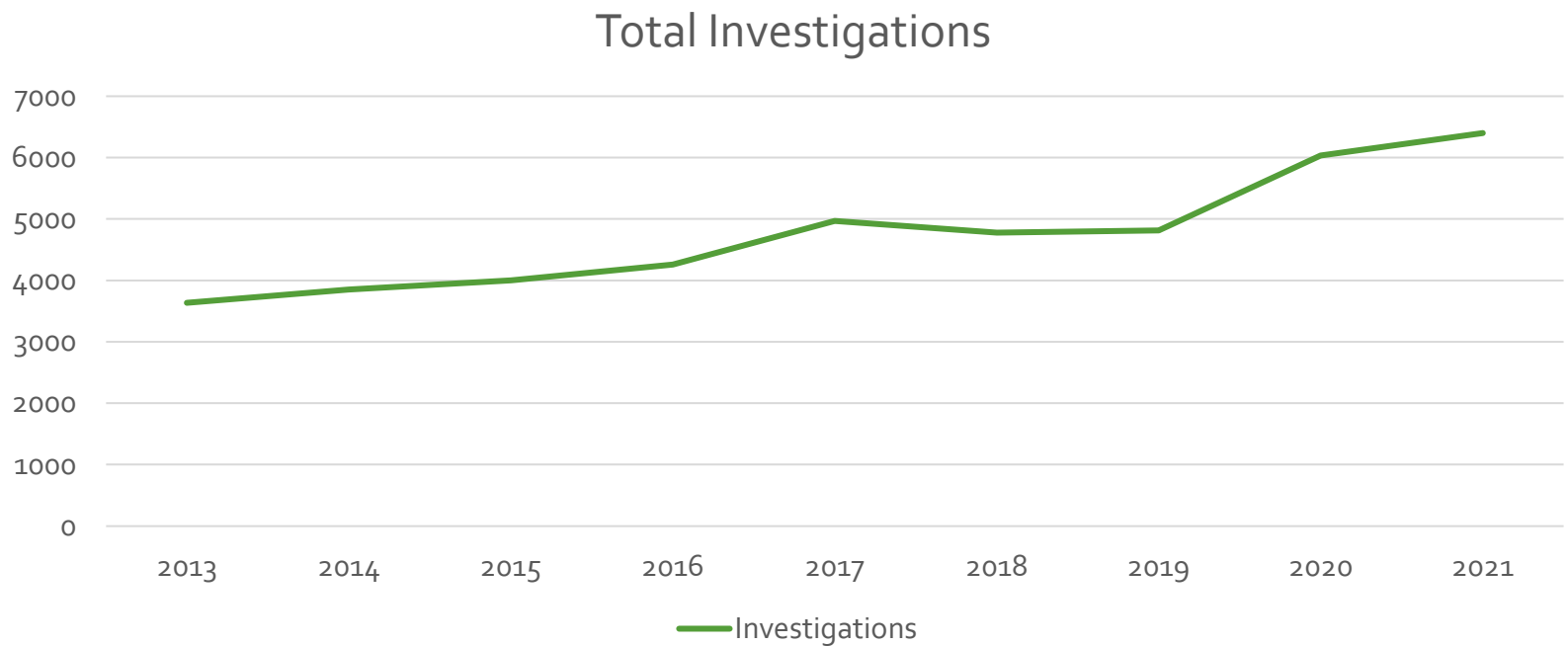


10-Year Autopsy Trends

Autopsies Over Time



Deaths Investigated

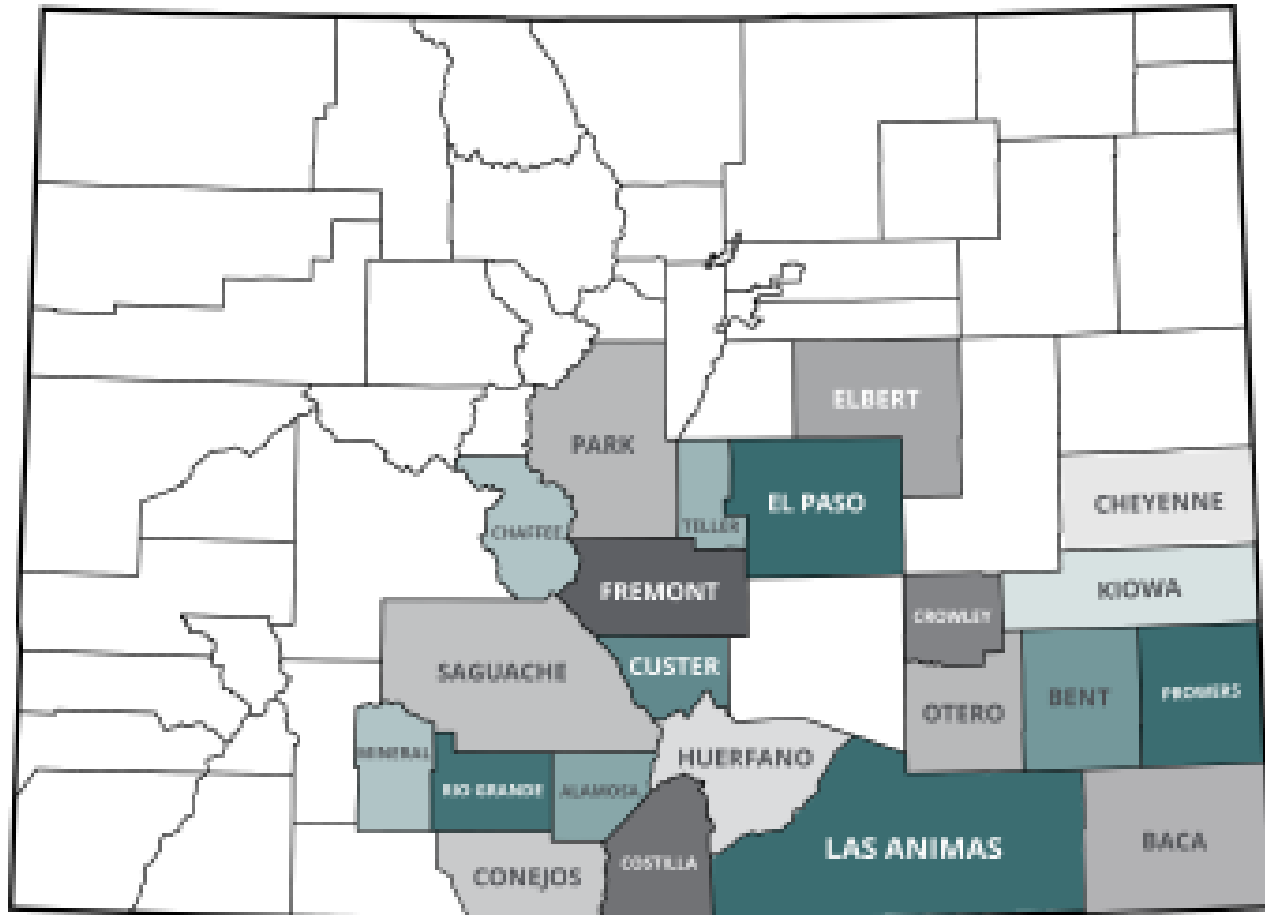


Strategic Plan Goals, Operating Indicators, Capital Projects

- Continue to assist Public Health, El Paso County agencies and leadership, regional hospitals, and non-profits in our ongoing efforts on COVID-19, fentanyl/substance abuse, child fatalities, and suicide prevention
- Deployment of updated/upgraded VertiQ Medical Examiner Laboratory information system
 - Funded with unspent and re-appropriated funds
 - Cloud hosting allowing the termination of outdated county servers and remote access
- Recruitment, hiring, and training for currently or soon to be unfilled positions
 - Chief Toxicologist, Deputy toxicologist, 2 Medicolegal Death Investigators, morgue staff.

Office of the Coroner





Budgetary Highlights

2020 Revenue for El Paso County Coroner's Office

Grant for Violent Death Reporting -----	\$3,838
Out-of-County Autopsy Fees -----	\$556,150
Out-of-County Toxicology Fees -----	\$171,390
Histology Fees -----	\$3,500
Facility Fees -----	\$1,600
Total Revenue for 2020 -----	<u>\$736,478</u> †



Base Budget and Critical Needs

- 2021 Base Budget:
 - \$3,253,981
 - + reappropriated funds from prior salary savings for capital projects:
 - \$176,163 LIMS upgrade
 - \$128,000 Toxicology equipment
- **No critical needs** identified for 2022
- Future possible needs 2023 and beyond:
 - Additional medical examiner and support staff (morgue tech, toxicologist, death investigator)
 - Currently at 260 calculated autopsies per medical examiner
 - Capital investment in toxicology laboratory to keep pace with drug cases



Questions?

