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Hon. Wanda F. Willingham, Chair
Audit and Finance Committee

October 21, 2024

The following information is in response to your recent memo regarding the proposed 2025 Budget for the Coroner's Office. The information below is what pertains specifically to our office:

1. Representative Appearing Before the Audit & Finance Committee:
 - Senior Coroner Paul Marra
2. Vacant Positions:
 - Coroner Per Diem (Line Item A1185 18670)
3. New Positions:
 - Office Assistant-\$45,000/year (Line Item A1185 16210). See below for more information.
4. Positions Funded by Grant Money:
 - Office Assistant-\$45,000/year (Line Item A1185 16210) will be 100% funded by Opioid Settlement Funded Community Grants for the next three years.
5. Salary Increases:
 - Coroner Per Diem (Line Item A1185 18670) increased from \$20,000 to \$45,000, as it was discovered that this position can only be filled by an individual who holds a medical license.
6. Job Titles to be Changed:
 - Clerk 1 P/T (Line Item A1185 16207) will be reclassified to Office Assistant (Line Item A1185 16210). This full-time change is needed to better support the department's growing needs and increased workload.

7. Fees for Services and Contractual Expenses Breakdown:

- Fees for Services (Line Item A1185 44046) Removal of Remains at \$400/case (Proposed \$200,000, which accounts for an increase of \$100 per case. Total increase \$50,000 from 2024)
- Laboratory Fees and Services (Line Item A1185 44048) NMS Labs, Ellis Hospital Morgue Services (Proposed \$650,000, increase of \$200,000 from 2024)
- Medical Services/Therapy (Line Item A1185 44252) Forensic Pathology Services/Coroner's Physicians (Proposed \$450,000, increase of \$70,000 from 2024)

8. New/Continued Initiatives and Reimbursements:

- NYS DOH Drug Overdose Report Submission Reimbursement Program, which reimburses the county for each toxicology report involving accidental or undetermined overdose deaths (\$150 per case)
- NYS DOCCS reimbursement for autopsy fees involving incarcerated individuals receiving state mandated autopsies: (\$1699 per case)

9. Conferences/Training/Tuition Breakdown: (Line Item A1185 44039) \$3,000

- NSACCME Fall & Spring Conferences: \$600-\$625 per Coroner
- NYSACCME Annual Membership Fees: \$110 per Coroner

10. Positions established in 2024 fiscal year:

- Coroner Per Diem (Line Item A1185 18670)

Please contact the Coroner's Office if there is any additional clarification needed on the above items.

Thank you,

Senior Coroner Paul Marra