



Jim Sheppard - Coroner  
(706) 482-2692

Frank Goss – Chief Deputy  
(706) 482-2694

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April 13, 2017

To: Allison Martin – Dir. Of Finance

Fr: James E Sheppard – Coroner

Ref: 2018 Budget

Attached you'll find the 2018 Coroner's Office Budget Request; Department 37000.

Please find the justification for increases listed below:

**00052-521301:** \$2500.00 increase. This is the fee(s) used to pay the coroner(s) call fees. We expect the death investigations to increase as our population continues to grow, and of course as our citizens age.

**00052-523852:** \$1000.00 increase. This request is due to the expectation of call for service to increase. These funds are used pay the Transport Service. As we expect calls to increase, so will the need for transport of decedents.

**00053-531270:** \$500.00 increase. Fuel needs for county vehicles.

Currently the Coroner's Office is staffed with one elected official, and one Chief Deputy Coroner. Both individuals are assigned county owned vehicles which provide 24 hour, 7-day a week response in the event of a death in the county. Many times, we work in concert with various public and state agencies investigating deaths. Our response is required regardless of weather conditions, time of day, day of week, etc. When there is a death, the Coroner's Office must respond if it is an unattended death (No Medical staff available).

Currently, our vehicle fleet is a 2007 Ford Expedition 4WD with approximately 85,000 miles and a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria with approximately 200,000 miles. The Ford Crown Victoria has now passed it's expected service life, and according to KBB.com, the value of it is now less than the yearly insurance premium.

Our Office is requesting a one-time request of \$35,000.00 to be used to secure a used, certified 4WD vehicle, capable of transporting decedents if the need arises by which our transport service cannot make it to the scene, if due to weather, road conditions, etc. There are still many locations within the county that a 4WD vehicle will be the only vehicle that can access certain areas. The ideal vehicle would be that of a Suburban or similar type vehicle. We cannot run the risk of not being able to respond in a timely matter when a loved one has passed away.



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We do not see replacing the 2007 Ford anytime in the near future.

Please feel free to contact me if needed.

Thank you,

Jim Sheppard