

ENROLLED ORDINANCE 177-83

MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FEES AND MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S 2023 BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL FEE REVENUE AND INCREASE OPERATING EXPENSES

WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office is mandated by § 979.01, Wisconsin Statutes, to investigate deaths to ensure safety, health, and welfare of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Board sets the fees for all services rendered by the Medical Examiner's Office which may not "exceed an amount that is reasonably related to the actual and necessary cost of providing the service" pursuant to § 59.36, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the fee can be increased on an annual basis, but may not exceed the annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12 months ending on December 31 of the year before pursuant to § 59.365, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, these fees include cremation permits, transport fees, and death certificate signing fees; and

WHEREAS, the fees are increased annually through the budget process and authorized by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the December 31 U.S. CPI change, which is the statutory limit on fee increases, is not known until mid-January of the budget year, which is after the budget has been adopted by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, due to the lag in CPI reporting a final adjustment based on actual CPI change cannot be approved until February at the earliest; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. CPI change from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022 is now known and is 6.5% which is higher than the 2023 budgeted increase of about 5%; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Office has experienced increasing costs due to higher caseload and higher price levels for items such as medical testing and medical supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Office would like to adjust their fee rates to the statutory allowed amounts to help cover higher costs.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA ORDAINS that the Medical Examiner's Office fees as indicated in Table 1 on file with the Department of Administration and made part of this ordinance by reference be approved effective February 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Medical Examiner's Office 2023 budget be modified by increasing fines and licenses revenue by \$6,975, charges for services revenue by \$1,055, and operating expenditures by \$8,030.

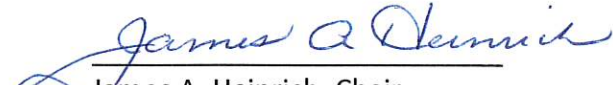
MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FEES AND MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S 2023 BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL FEE REVENUE AND INCREASE OPERATING EXPENSES

Presented By:
Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee


Approved By:
Finance Committee



Jacob LaFontain, Chair



James A. Heinrich, Chair




Michael A. Crowley




Larry Bangs



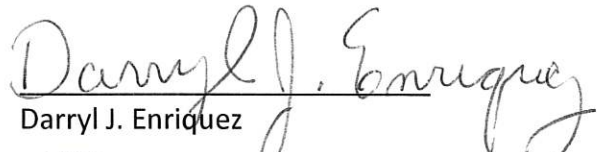
Tyler J. Foti



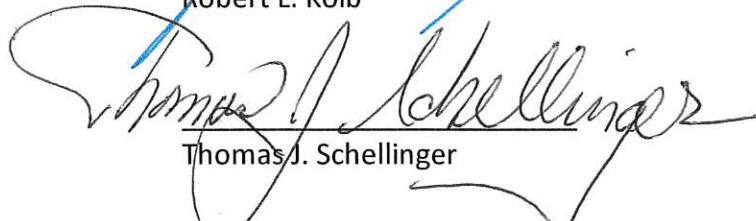
James Batzko




Robert L. Kolb



Darryl J. Enriquez



Thomas J. Schellinger



Tyler J. Foti

Absent

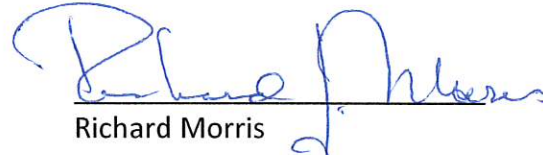
Terry Thieme



Joel R. Gaughan

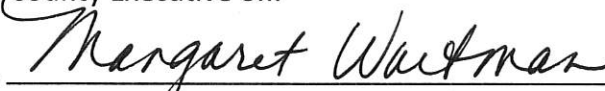
Absent

Matthew E. Weil



Richard Morris

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, was presented to the County Executive on:

Date: 1/27/2023, 

Margaret Wartman, County Clerk

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

Approved: X

Vetoed: _____

Date: 1/27/2023, 

Paul Farrow, County Executive

Revised

1 MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FEES AND MODIFY THE MEDICAL
2 EXAMINER'S 2023 BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL FEE REVENUE AND INCREASE
3 OPERATING EXPENSES
4

5 WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office is mandated by § 979.01,
6 Wisconsin Statutes, to investigate deaths to ensure safety, health, and welfare of the county; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Waukesha County Board sets the fees for all services rendered by the Medical
9 Examiner's Office which may not "exceed an amount that is reasonably related to the actual and
10 necessary cost of providing the service" pursuant to § 59.36, Wisconsin Statutes; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the fee can be increased on an annual basis, but may not exceed the annual
13 percentage change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12 months ending on
14 December 31 of the year before pursuant to § 59.365, Wisconsin Statutes; and
15

16 WHEREAS, these fees include cremation permits, transport fees, and death certificate signing
17 fees; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the fees are increased annually through the budget process and authorized by the
20 County Board; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the December 31 U.S. CPI change, which is the statutory limit on fee increases, is
23 not known until mid-January of the budget year, which is after the budget has been adopted by
24 the County Board; and
25

26 WHEREAS, due to the lag in CPI reporting a final adjustment based on actual CPI change
27 cannot be approved until February at the earliest; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the U.S. CPI change from December 31, 2021 to ~~December 31~~ November 30, 2022
30 is now known and is 6.85% which is higher than the 2023 budgeted increase of about 5%; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Office has experienced increasing costs due to higher
33 caseload and higher price levels for items such as medical testing and medical supplies; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Office would like to adjust their fee rates to the statutory
36 allowed amounts to help cover higher costs; and
37

38 ~~WHEREAS, the fee increases included in this ordinance are estimates based on the most recent~~
39 ~~November 2022 CPI figures, and county administration will provide updated increases based on~~
40 ~~December 2022 CPI figures for County Board consideration before the January County Board~~
41 ~~meeting.~~
42

43 THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA ORDAINS
44 that the Medical Examiner's Office fees as indicated in Table 1 on file with the Department of
45 Administration and made part of this ordinance by reference be approved effective February 1,
46 2023.
47

Referred on:	File Number:	Referred to:
--------------	--------------	--------------

REVISED FISCAL NOTE
 MODIFY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FEES AND MODIFY THE MEDICAL
 EXAMINER'S 2023 BUDGET FOR ADDITIONAL FEE REVENUE AND INCREASE OPERATING
 EXPENSES

This ordinance would authorize the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office to increase some of its fees to the amount permitted by state law to help cover increasing costs. State statute 59.365 limits the increase in medical examiner fees to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (all urban consumers, U.S. city average) for the 12 months ending on December 31 on the year before the increase. Each year, the County Board sets the Medical Examiner fee rates through the budget process (County Code Sec. 18-21). The 2023 budget, which was developed during June 2022, before final CPI numbers are known, conservatively assumed about a 5% increase in Medical Examiner fees. The ~~new~~ latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show a 6.85% increase from ~~November~~ December 30, 2022 compared to December 31, 2021. ~~For demonstration purposes, the adjusted rates, assuming the allowable increase through November, are shown in the table below. The final December CPI will not be available until about mid-January, and this ordinance will be updated to reflect the final numbers for County Board Consideration prior to the County Board meeting.~~

Fee Type	2022 Current Rate	2023 Adopted Rate	Proposed 2023 Rate (a)	Est. Add'l Annual Revenue	Partial-Year Impact
Cremation Permit	\$ 265	\$ 278	\$282	\$10,800	\$6,975
Transport	\$ 204	\$ 214	\$217	\$1,200	\$771
Death Certificate Signing	\$ 85	\$ 89	\$90	\$484	\$284
Total				\$12,484	\$8,030

(a) Rounded to nearest dollar.

~~(b) To be updated with December CPI prior to County Board meeting.~~

If approved, the adjusted rate increase would go into effect on February 1, 2023 and is estimated to increase revenues (above the budgeted rates) on an annualized basis (February 2023-February 2024) by ~~\$16,068~~ \$12,484. Due to the lag in CPI information and the February effective date, the partial-year impact in 2023 is estimated to increase revenues about ~~\$11,316~~ \$8,030.

This ordinance also modifies the Medical Examiner's 2023 budget to increase operating expenses by ~~\$11,316~~ \$8,030, funded with the higher fee revenues. The Medical Examiner's Office has been experiencing increased costs due to higher caseload and higher price levels. Due to supply chain issues, the department has been getting their medical supplies from vendors based on availability rather than based on price, which is how it was historically done. Third-party medical services costs have also been increasing. For example, the toxicology testing services provider has increased their fees about 6% from 2021 to 2022. Due to rising costs and an increase in caseload, the department has submitted either a funds transfer or an ordinance to request increasing their operating budget appropriation for the last 3 years (2020-2022). The 2023 adopted budget included an increase in operating expenses of about \$27,600 to help address increasing costs.

William Duckwitz

William Duckwitz
 Budget Manager

~~04/29/2023~~ 1/12/2023

SMH

JE#2023-00000005

Referred on: 1/04/23	File Number: 177-O-090	Referred to: JU-FI
----------------------	------------------------	--------------------

Updated 01/12/2023 *Revised*

TABLE 1: MEDICAL EXAMINER FEES*

<u>Fee Type</u>		<u>Current Rate</u>		<u>Proposed Rate</u>
Cremation Permit	\$	265	\$	282
Transport	\$	204	\$	217
Death Certificate Signing	\$	85	\$	90


*Rounded to Nearest dollar

VOTE RESULTS

21 YES 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN 4 ABSENT

Ordinance 177-O-090

Ordinance 177-O-090: Modify the Medical Examiner's Office Fees and Modify The Medical Examiner's 2023 B Operating Expenses

 **Passed With 17 Yes Votes Needed**

D1 - Foti	ABSENT	D10 - Thieme	AYE	D19 - Enriquez	AYE
D2 - Weil	AYE	D11 - Howard	AYE	D20 - Schellinger	AYE
D3 - Morris	AYE	D12 - Wolf	AYE	D21 - Gaughan	AYE
D4 - Batzko	AYE	D13 - Decker	AYE	D22 - Szpara	AYE
D5 - Grant	ABSENT	D14 - Mommaerts	AYE	D23 - Hammitt	AYE
D6 - Walz	AYE	D15 - Kolb	AYE	D24 - Bangs	AYE
D7 - LaFontain	AYE	D16 - Crowley	AYE	D25 - Johnson	AYE
D8 - Michalski	ABSENT	D17 - Meier	ABSENT		
D9 - Heinrich	AYE	D18 - Nelson	AYE		