

ENROLLED ORDINANCE 176-87

AUTHORIZE THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE TO  
ESTABLISH A TRANSPORT FEE

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

WHEREAS some deaths may require the transport of a decedent from a death scene or health care facility to the Waukesha County morgue; and

WHEREAS currently the Medical Examiner's Office does not charge a fee for the transport of decedents; and

WHEREAS the Medical Examiner's Office may charge a transport fee, but the fee cannot "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 transport fee must be set by the Waukesha County Board 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 for the 12 months ending on December 31 of the year before pursuant to § 59.365, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS § 49.785, Wisconsin Statutes, prevents a transport fee from being assessed to a funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium that receives payment from the Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program (WFCAP); and

WHEREAS other counties in the state have charged similar transport fees for several years to help recover costs of providing services; and

WHEREAS the Medical Examiner's Office has concluded that a transport fee is fair and reasonable in order to cover the personnel and operating costs associated with the transportation of decedents to the Waukesha County morgue; and

WHEREAS this new fee would be set at \$204 per transport in 2022, estimated to generate \$81,600, and be accounted for as a charge for service to recover the cost of decedent transportation, such as deputy medical examiner staff time, and vehicle costs.

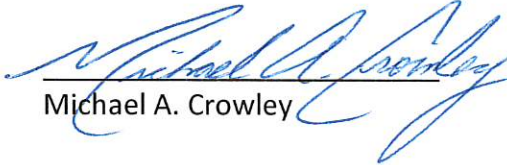
THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA ORDAINS that the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office is authorized to establish a fee for the transport of a decedent to the Waukesha County morgue effective January 1, 2022 at \$204 per transport.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office is authorized to adjust the transport fee in accordance with § 59.365, Wisconsin Statutes.

AUTHORIZE THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE TO  
ESTABLISH A TRANSPORT FEE

Approved By:  
Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee

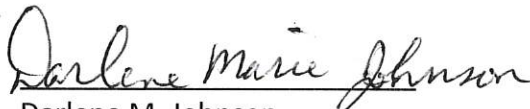
  
Peter M. Wolff, Chair

  
Michael A. Crowley

**Absent**

Tyler J. Foti


  
Christine M. Howard

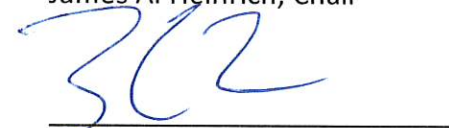
  
Darlene M. Johnson

  
Jacob LaFontain

  
Larry Nelson

Approved By:  
Finance Committee

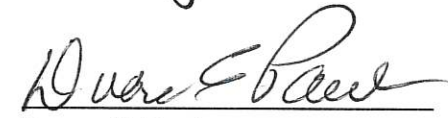
  
James A. Heinrich, Chair

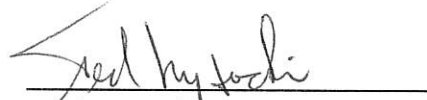
  
Tyler J. Foti

  
Joel R. Gaughan


  
Thomas A. Michalski

  
Larry Nelson

  
Duane E. Paulson

  
Ted Wysocki

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

Date: 12/22/21,   
Margaret Waitman, County Clerk

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

Approved: X

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/22/2021,   
Paul Farrow, County Executive

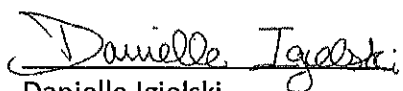
FISCAL NOTE

AUTHORIZE THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE TO  
ESTABLISH A TRANSPORT FEE

This ordinance would authorize the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office to establish a transport fee to recover the cost of transporting decedents from death scenes or health care facilities to the Waukesha County morgue. This fee would be set at \$204 per transport beginning on January 1, 2022, and with an estimated 400 transports would be estimated to generate \$81,600 in revenue. The transport fees charged by other counties range from \$153 to \$267 per transport. Future increases in the transport fee would be limited to the annual percentage change in the U.S. consumer price index for the 12 months ending on December 31, per state statute 59.365. Any future Medical Examiner fee changes will be included in the department's annual budget request or through separate ordinance.

According to state statute, section 59.36, this fee cannot "exceed an amount that is reasonably related to the actual and necessary cost of providing the service." The proposed fee is based on estimated staff time (e.g., deputy medical examiners), vehicle costs (e.g., fuel, repair, replacement), supply costs (e.g., body bags), management supervision, and indirect cost recovery. These revenues would reimburse the county these costs, which are already included in the base budget and funded with tax levy. This ordinance would free up additional tax levy resources to fund other needs in the Medical Examiner's budget to meet increasing caseloads. The budget modification associated with the establishment of this fee is included in a separate ordinance for County Board consideration during the December 2021 ordinance cycle.

This ordinance produces a favorable tax levy impact by generating a new revenue source to cover ongoing costs that were previously funded with tax levy.




Danielle Igielski  
Accounting Services Manager  
11/30/2021

VOTING RESULTS

AYE 23 NAY 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2

# Ordinance 176-O-091

Ordinance 176-O-091: Authorize the Medical Examine...

 **Passed By Majority Vote**

D1 - Foti	AYE	D14 - Mommaerts	AYE
D2 - Zimmermann	AYE	D15 - Mitchell	AYE
D3 - Morris	AYE	D16 - Crowlev	AYE
D4 - Batzko	AYE	D17 - Paulson	AYE
D5 - Dondlinger	AYE	D18 - Nelson	AYE
D6 - Walz	AYE	D19 - Vacant	ABSENT
D7 - LaFontain	AYE	D20 - Schellinger	AYE
D8 - Michalski	AYE	D21 - Gaughan	AYE
D9 - Heinrich	AYE	D22 - Wysocki	AYE
D10 - Swan	AYE	D23 - Hammitt	AYE
D11 - Howard	AYE	D24 - Whitlow	ABSENT
D12 - Wolff	AYE	D25 - Johnson	AYE
D13 - Decker	AYE		

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