



# CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

**DEPARTMENT:** Medical Examiner's Office  
**DATE:** August 19, 2014  
**REQUEST:** Authorization for Recruitment of an Associate Medical Examiner Position

**CHECK ONE:**                      X   Consent                           CAO

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Clark County Medical Examiner's Office has one forensic pathologist to perform autopsies, the number of which has increased with the population over the past ten years. Dr. Dennis Wickham serves as the department director and the only full time forensic pathologist. He is continuously on call and often performs autopsies six days a week. The volume of work per week exceeds the capacity of a single pathologist and is not sustainable. The National Association of Medical Examiners recommends that a forensic pathologist perform less than 250 autopsies per year. Dr. Wickham has exceeded the threshold every year for the last five years. Two contract pathologists provide autopsy services on a fee for service basis when Dr. Wickham is unavailable; however, they are not always available for Clark County when they are needed.

The cost of one FTE in this job classification is approximately \$375,000 per biennium in salary and benefits. The state reimburses counties for twenty-five percent of a forensic pathologist's salary which would increase Clark County reimbursements to \$70,000 per biennium for this new position. Also, the Medical Examiner's current budget includes \$200,000 for contract pathology. This amount would no longer be needed and will be an offset to the cost of adding the position. Net cost per biennium would be \$116,322. Authorization to add the position will result in adding 1.00 FTE for 2013/14 and the 2015/16 budget would add the related costs.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

There were no community outreach efforts specific to this request.

**BUDGET AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

One Associate Medical Examiner would be added as an FTE Adjustment in the 2013/14 Final Supplemental, scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2014. The cost of the position would be added to the Medical Examiner's 2015/16 Biennial Budget.

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

Yes (see attached form)                     No

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Request approval to begin the recruitment process for one Associate Medical Examiner position.

**DISTRIBUTION**

Judy Alexander, Jeremy Hammrich; Human Resources  
Bob Stevens, Nikki Peterson; Budget Office  
Nikki Costa, Medical Examiner's Office

County Medical Examiner  
Dr. Dennis Wickham

Approved:   
CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SR 189-14

*man  
OK  
4/1*

# FISCAL IMPACT ATTACHMENT

## Part I: Narrative Explanation

I. A – Explanation of what the request does that has fiscal impact and the assumptions for developing revenue and costing information

The Medical Examiner’s Office wishes to begin recruitment for a new position, to be authorized in the November 2014 Final Supplemental Budget. The budget for 2013/14 will not be affected other than the addition of 1.00 FTE. The budget for 15/16 will require additional appropriations of \$186,322 and General Fund revenues will be budgeted for an additional \$70,000 in State reimbursements. **The additional revenue plus the cost of the requested position results in a net fiscal impact of \$116,322 for the biennium.**

## Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001/General Fund	0	0	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)

Revenue will come from State of Washington in the form of reimbursement for pathology salary.

## Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTEs	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
0001/General Fund	1.00	0	0	186,322	186,322	186,322	186,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits	0	0	375,022	375,022	375,022	375,022
Contractual			-200,000	-200,000	-200,000	-200,000
Supplies						
Travel			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other controllables			8,300	8,300	8,300	8,300
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>	<b>186,322</b>