

District 16
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.
Medical Examiner

PO Box 523207
Marathon Shores, Florida 33052

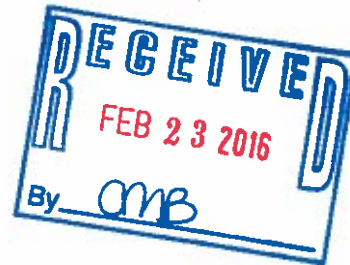
Telephone: (305) 743-9011
Fax: (305) 743-9013

Email: district16medicalexaminer@gmail.com

6-7

February 21, 2016

Roman Gastesi, County Administrator
Tina Boan, Budget Director
Office of Management and Budget
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-213
Key West, FL 33040



Greetings,

In the spirit of openness and transparency, I am offering a detailed budget for the projected expenditures of the Office of the Medical Examiner for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. I wish to note that none of the previous Medical Examiners have done this. The geography and demographics of Monroe County place unique challenges on the Medical Examiner. As a solo physician practice the Medical Examiner is on-call 24 hours a day, every day. The Medical Examiner may have to attend a death scene in Key West and another in Key Largo all in the same evening.

The very nature of the duties and responsibilities of the Medical Examiner (FS406) defy budgetary predictability. In the preparation of this budget I have used the actual expenditures from 2015. I realize that there is a contract that specifies (and limits) the amount of money Monroe County spends for Medical Examiner services. That contract defines the Medical Examiner as an independent contractor and the financial risks are placed on the contractor.

In 2015 Monroe County conducted a financial audit of the corporation contracted with the county. I am in receipt of a draft copy of the audit report. Although I do not agree with all of the assertions and recommendations, I have made significant changes some of which are reflected in this budget. I have been careful to extract any purchase not directly related to medical examiner operations. I have also restructured the benefits package offered to employees including the physician.

I welcome the opportunity to personally discuss this budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Thomas R. Beaver", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.

District 16
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.
Medical Examiner

PO Box 523207 Telephone: (305) 743-9011
Marathon Shores, Florida 33052 Fax: (305) 743-9013

Email: district16medicalexaminer@gmail.com

Notes for Budget lines:

Note 1: Total funds required from Monroe County for 2016 - 2017 Fiscal Year.

Note 2: Cremation Approvals @ \$50/each which just covers the additional cost. The amount is an estimate which is based on historical data (cremations approved in 2015). Currently, legislation is being considered which would prohibit the Medical Examiner from charging this fee.

Note 3: Medical Examiner conferences and meetings which includes Medical Examiner Commission meetings.

Note 4: Annual Continuing Education costs required to maintain medical license and certifications.

Note 5: Annual professional dues which includes dues for the American Medical Association, the Florida Medical Association, the Florida Association of Medical Examiners, the National Association of Medical Examiners, and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Note 6: Insurances includes Liability, Professional, Medical, and Workman's Compensation. Insurance premiums included with minimal increase for FY2017.

Note 7: Janitorial and Cleaning services for building maintenance.

Note 8: Laboratory Costs include blood testing, tissue testing, dental comparison and forensic anthropology. This is an estimate based on historical data. Toxicological testing is required on most autopsies. The cost is based on the number of tests and the complexity of the testing. I estimate a cost of \$200 per case for FY2017.

Note 9: Professional License and fee renewals for doctor and corporation.

Note 10: Office Expenses are based on actual 2015 expenses. Almost all of the office supplies are purchased from Office Depot online. In preparation of this budget, I reviewed those purchases and I have been careful to exclude all items suggested in the Monroe County Audit.

District 16
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.
Medical Examiner

PO Box 523207 Telephone: (305) 743-9011
Marathon Shores, Florida 33052 Fax: (305) 743-9013

Email: district16medicalexaminer@gmail.com

Note 11: Salaries and Wages for 4 employees including 1 Doctor. The previous medical examiner, Dr. Hunt Scheurman, was paid an annual gross salary of \$220,000.00. I am requesting that salary. I am on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and 52 weeks a year. ERI SalaryExpert lists the average salary of a Forensic Medical Examiner in Miami as \$301,995. See attachment A. The other employees are hourly-workers and get paid overtime when they are on-call to assist me. I have estimated overtime based on historical data at 6 hours per week. The previous Medical Examiner paid hourly employees 10 hours per week overtime for a week on-call.

Note 12: Payroll taxes including Social Security, Medicare, FUTA, and SUTA are based on salaries and wages.

Note 13: Postage and Shipping includes sending toxicology specimens, reports, materials for scientific identification, and forensic anthropology. They are shipped via FedEx for security and timeliness.

Note 14: Locum tenens doctors, accounting, answering service, and investigative analysis, legal services, radiation monitoring, and transcription services are all required to perform the functions of the medical examiner's office. When I am sick or leave the county I am required to provide a qualified physician for coverage. These doctors charge \$1500 per day. This estimate is based on 4 weeks per year of physician coverage. Which leaves me to work and be on-call 337 days per year. A normal work year is 260 days.

Note 15: Small medical tools and equipment includes scissors, scalpel handles, retractors, clamps, autopsy saw and blades. For example, scissors last about 1 month and cost \$30. Saw blades are replaced every month and cost \$80. Other small tools (listed above) must be replaced periodically. The autopsy saw needs yearly maintenance which is approximately \$1000. I have been careful to exclude items suggested by the audit.

Note 16: Supplies, Vaccines, Drugs, Needles, Protective Equipment, Body Bags, etc. costs are based on actual historical data. The Medical Examiner's office supplies body bags for body transport. Two bags are used for each case. One bag to bring the body to the office and one to release the body. Body bags cost between \$14 and \$45 depending on size and weight. I need to have a supply of at least 50 body bags in case of a mass fatality event. A plastic liner is also used for each case which costs \$3.00. Body fluids are collected from each body by syringe and needle. Four syringes and needles are needed for each case. Disposable personal protective equipment for each person at the autopsy consists of hat, mask, face shield, gown, shoe covers, and gloves. I require all morgue staff to wear scrubs for their health and safety. Scrubs are laundered in the morgue.

District 16
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.
Medical Examiner

PO Box 523207 Telephone: (305) 743-9011
Marathon Shores, Florida 33052 Fax: (305) 743-9013

Email: district16medicalexaminer@gmail.com

Note 17: Telephones for the office, on-call phone costs are based on actual 2015 expenditures. All communication with the Medical Examiner is by telephone. It is critical that Law Enforcement, hospitals, and citizens be able to reach the Medical Examiner 24/7/365. These are landline phones, located in the facility, and three cell phones. An on-call phone for an investigator, an on-call phone for the physician, and a back-up on-call phone.

Note 18: Removal of 250 bodies per year at a cost of \$350 per body. The previous Medical Examiner paid \$350 per body to the funeral home for transport.

Note 19: Gas for travel to scenes, etc. is required as the Medical Examiner is requested and/or required to attend the body at every scene in the case of an out-of-hospital death. Also the Medical Examiner is sometimes required to respond to the hospital for suspicious cases.

Note 20: Uniforms, shirts, badges, etc. are supplied by the Medical Examiner for employees including new hires. Some of these items must be replaced periodically due to contamination with biohazardous materials.

Note 21: Internet service as provided by Monroe county is slow and unreliable. Many times I have used my wireless service to keep the office functioning and staff working. For speed and redundancy reasons I maintain a wireless network for the office.

Note 22: The Medical Examiner generates biohazardous material requiring specialized waste disposal similar to a hospital. Charges for this service are based on weight and amount which vary with caseload and case specifics. The amount budgeted is based on actual 2015 expenditures with no anticipated increase in FY 2017.

Note: Costs of outside services such as laboratory, toxicology, medical waste, insurances, purchase of supplies, etc. are based on current costs with no increase included. This most likely is not a realistic position as costs increase annually in all facets of life.

**Thomas R Beaver MD PA
Proposed 2016 - 2017 Budget
Medical Examiner Office
Monroe County**

	2016 - 2017 Proposed Budget	Note Number
Revenue		
Monroe County Income	686,055.00	#1
Cremationa Approvals	12,000.00	#2
Total Revenues	698,055.00	
Expenses		
Conferences & Meetings	500.00	#3
Continuing Education	1,000.00	#4
Dues and Subscriptions	1,000.00	#5
Insurances	38,775.00	#6
Janitorial and Cleaning	1,500.00	#7
Laboratory Fees	47,700.00	#8
Licenses and Fees	3,200.00	#9
Office Expenses	8,560.00	#10
Salaries and Wages	355,720.00	#11
Payroll Taxes	28,000.00	#12
Postage and Shipping	3,000.00	#13
Professional Services	74,800.00	#14
Small Medical Equipment	3,000.00	#15
Supplies/Vaccines/Drugs	15,000.00	#16
Telephone	4,900.00	#17
Transportation Expense	87,500.00	#18
Travel Expense	7,800.00	#19
Uniforms	500.00	#20
Cable/Internet	3,600.00	#21
Waste Removal	12,000.00	#22
Total Expenses	698,055.00	
Total Needed From Monroe County	\$ 686,055.00	
Monthly Stipend	\$ 57,171.25	

Notes: See attached document for details.

Attachment A
Note #11



Forensic Medical Examiner Salary in Miami, Florida



Home (/) / Salary Survey Data (/SalarySurveyData) / Cities (/SalarySurveyData/City) / Miami, Florida (/SalarySurveyData/City=miami-fl/Salary) / Forensic Medical Examiner

To get your salary data, use the **search bar** below or **browse** by job, city, or state.

Enter job title

City, State, Country

Search

Browse: Job (/SalarySurveyData/City=miami-fl/Job) / City (/SalarySurveyData/City/Job=forensic-medical-examiner) / State (/SalarySurveyData/State/Job=forensic-medical-examiner)

Average Salary for Forensic Medical Examiner in Miami, Florida

Salary

Hourly Rate

Bonus

The **average salary** of a(n) Forensic Medical Examiner in Miami, Florida is **\$301,995**.

Forensic Medical Examiner



Job Description:

Unable to view chart?

ⓘ About this data All physicians and surgeons not listed separately.