



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

PAGE 1 OF 9

DATE: 09/17/2024

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE TARRANT COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve changes to the Medical Examiner's fee schedule effective October 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Medical Examiner is requesting that the attached amended fee schedule be approved. The attached fee schedule, which reflects proposed increases and new services, is broken down into medical examiner services for district counties and non-district counties, and forensic laboratory services. Non-District counties will pay an additional five percent (5%) fee compared to district members for medical examiner services, including examinations, toxicology and histology services. The increase is requested to cover the costs associated with personnel, advanced scientific instrumentation and technology, and laboratory consumables.

The Medical Examiner's fee schedule is reviewed annually to reflect any changes that are needed due to additional services or the economy.

The October 1, 2024 effective date is being requested to be cognizant of municipal government entities' fiscal year budgets. The Medical Examiner has previously spoken to other government entities regarding the strong possibility of fee increases.

FISCAL IMPACT

The increased revenues that the County will receive from the proposed fees will be dependent upon the quantity of requests for these services.

SUBMITTED BY:	Medical Examiner	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Dr. Kendall V. Crowns
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OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Tarrant County Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory Services Fee

Schedule Effective 10/01/24 to 09/30/25

Item	Description	Unit	FY21-FY22	FY25
11050	Autopsy Level I - External Examination/In Absentia Medical Review	case	\$1,000	\$1,100
11100	Autopsy Level II - Natural Death Full Autopsy	case	\$1,750	\$2,000
11350	Autopsy Level III - Unnatural or Trauma Death Full Autopsy	case	\$2,500	\$3,300
11605	Vitreous Chemistry - Basic Metabolic Screen	sample	\$210	\$230
11700	Microbiological Culture	sample	\$210	\$230
11800	Reference Laboratory Services - nonroutine laboratory test	sample	TBD	TBD
12200	Biological Fluid Screening of cuttings/swabs	item	\$90	\$100
12250	Biological Fluid Screening of physical evidence	item	\$120	\$130
12300	Y-STR Screening of sexual assault kit	kit	\$400	\$500
12350	Y-STR Screening of physical evidence	item	\$75	\$85
12400	DNA Extraction & Quantitation	sample	\$250	\$275
12500	DNA STR Analysis	sample	\$330	\$350
12550	DNA YSTR Analysis	sample	\$330	\$350
12600	Biological Evidence collection	item	\$30	\$35
13000	Marihuana or plant-like material, single exhibit	sample	\$120	\$130
13050	Marihuana or plant-like material, additional exhibit(s)	sample	\$75	\$80
13100	Powder, Crystal or Liquid substance, single exhibit	sample	\$120	\$130
13150	Powder, Crystal or Liquid substance, additional exhibit(s)	sample	\$75	\$80
13250	Syringe and Liquid Content, single exhibit	sample	\$120	\$130
13300	Syringe and Liquid Content, additional exhibit(s)	sample	\$75	\$80
13400	Visual Identification of tablet or capsule, single exhibit	sample	\$30	\$35
13500	Tablet, single exhibit	sample	\$120	\$130
13550	Tablet, additional exhibit(s)	sample	\$75	\$80
13600	Drug Chemistry Bulk Analysis (5 or more subexhibits from single exhibit)	exhibit	\$350	\$385
13650	Weight Determination only	sample	\$40	\$45
14000	Current Trends Annual Conference	person	\$250	\$275
16100	Dental Charting and Full Mouth X-Ray	case	\$375	\$500
16200	Human Identification by Dental Comparison or Anthropology	case	\$600	\$650
16300	Human Identification by Fingerprints	case	\$150	\$165
16400	Anthropology Scene Assistance / Body Recovery (Non-Jurisdictional)	case	\$840	\$925
16500	Anthropology Consult (Brief \$50/Intermediate \$250/Advanced \$500)	case	TBD	TBD
16600	Anthropology Human or Non-Human Origin	case	\$50	\$50
17000	Facility Utilization	per hour	\$250	\$275
18000	Visualization of Latent Prints on an object	item	\$120	\$130
18100	Visualization of Latent Prints on a body	body	\$530	\$575
18200	Comparison of Latent Prints	item	\$130	\$145
18300	Evaluation of Processed Latent Print, per print	each	\$85	\$95
19000	Evaluation of Ammunition	item	\$75	\$80
19050	Examination and Evaluation of a Firearm	firearm	\$185	\$200
19100	Ammunition Comparison, firearm and first comparison	item	\$210	\$230
19150	Ammunition Comparison, additional comparison	item	\$65	\$70
19200	Toolmark Comparison (i.e. per chain link)	item	\$200	\$220
19250	Range Determination, Rifled Barrels	firearm	\$475	\$500
19300	Range Determination, Smoothbore	firearm	\$335	\$365
19350	Serial Number Restoration	item	\$270	\$300
19400	Gunpowder Evaluation only	item	\$130	\$140
20000	Histology Slide Preparation - processing, embedding, cutting and staining	case	\$200	\$220
20500	Histology Slide Recut	slide	\$20	\$25
20600	Postmortem Comprehensive Histology	case	\$330	\$360
21000	Color Photo - 4x6	each	\$8	\$9

Forensic Laboratory Services		
Item	Description	Unit
Biology and DNA		
5723	Biological Fluid Screening of cuttings/swabs	item
5724	Biological Fluid Screening of physical evidence	item
5725	Y-STR Screening	item
5727	DNA Extraction & Quantitation	sample
5728	DNA STR Analysis	sample
5729	DNA YSTR Analysis	sample
5730	Biological Evidence collection	item
NEW	Comparison of profiles only	profile
NEW	Vendor review for CODIS upload	profile
Drug Chemistry		
5731	Marihuana or plant-like material, single exhibit	sample
5732	Marihuana or plant-like material, additional exhibit(s)	sample
5733	Powder, Crystal or Liquid substance, single exhibit	sample
5734	Powder, Crystal or Liquid substance, additional exhibit(s)	sample
5735	Syringe and Liquid Content, single exhibit	sample
5736	Syringe and Liquid Content, additional exhibit(s)	sample
5737	Visual Identification of tablet or capsule, single exhibit	sample
5738	Tablet, single exhibit	sample
5739	Tablet, additional exhibit(s)	sample
5740	Drug Chemistry Bulk Analysis (5 or more subexhibits from single exhibit)	exhibit
5741	Weight Determination only	sample
Evidence		
5742	Shipping Fee - evidence or property	each
5743	Specimen Long-term Storage Fee per year	case
Firearm & Toolmarks		
5744	Evaluation of Ammunition	item
5745	Examination and Evaluation of a Firearm	firearm
5746	Ammunition Comparison, firearm and first comparison	item
5747	Ammunition Comparison, additional comparison	item
5748	Toolmark Comparison (e.g., per chain link)	item
5749	Range Determination, Rifled Barrels	firearm
5750	Range Determination, Smoothbore	firearm
5751	Serial Number Restoration	item
5752	Gunpowder Evaluation only	item
5753	Fracture Match Comparison	item

FY22-FY24	FY25
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\$100	\$100
\$130	\$130
New	\$100
\$275	\$275
\$350	\$350
\$350	\$350
\$35	\$35
New	\$50
New	\$100

\$130	\$130
\$80	\$80
\$130	\$130
\$80	\$80
\$130	\$130
\$80	\$80
\$35	\$35
\$130	\$130
\$80	\$80
\$385	\$385
\$45	\$45

\$180	\$180
\$65	\$65

\$80	\$80
\$200	\$200
\$230	\$230
\$70	\$70
\$220	\$220
\$500	\$500
\$365	\$365
\$300	\$300
\$140	\$140
\$80	\$80

Medical Examiner District - Denton, Johnson, Parker and Tarrant Counties					
Item		Description	Unit	DISTRICT FY22-FY24	DISTRICT FY25
Morgue Services					
5691		Autopsy Level I - External Examination/In Absentia Medical Review	case	\$1,100	\$1,444
5692		Autopsy Level II - Natural Death Full Autopsy	case	\$2,000	\$2,625
5693		Autopsy Level III - Unnatural or Trauma Death Full Autopsy	case	\$3,300	\$4,375
Human Identification and Anthropology					
5694		Identification: Radiographic Comparison	case	\$600	\$650
5695		Identification: Visual	case	\$200	\$200
5696		Identification: Fingerprints Comparison	case	\$250	\$250
5697		Anthropology Scene Assistance / Body Recovery (Non-Jurisdictional)	case	\$925	\$925
5698		Anthropology Consult Level I	case	TBD	\$665
NEW		Anthropology Consult Level II	case		\$1,200
NEW		Anthropology Consult Level III	case		\$2,000
5701		Anthropology Human or Non-Human Origin	case	\$50	\$150
NEW		Unidentified Decedent Database Entry (NCIC, NamUs, etc.)	case		\$200
NEW		Fingerprint Card / Mikrosil Cast Copy Request	case		\$50
Histology					
5702		Histology Slide Preparation - processing, embedding, cutting and staining	case	\$200	\$220
5703		Histology Slide Recut	slide	\$25	\$25
5704		Postmortem Comprehensive Histology	case	\$360	\$360
Miscellaneous					
5705		Vitreous Chemistry - Basic Metabolic Screen	sample	\$230	\$230
5706		Microbiological Culture	sample	\$230	\$230
5707		Reference Laboratory Services - nonroutine laboratory test	sample	TBD	TBD
5710		Recovery of Trace Evidence (body processing)	body	\$500	\$500
Toxicology - Post Mortem					
5708		Post-Mortem Toxicology Comprehensive Quantitative Analyses	case	\$650	\$650
5709		Miscellaneous Toxicology Testing (Carbon Monoxide, Volatiles, GHB, or other)	each	\$110	\$110
Records					
NEW		Copy of Inquest Report	each		\$25
5713		Digital Photos on CD	case	\$180	\$200
5714		Certified Copy of Inquest Reports for Insurance, Law Office & Record agencies	each	\$135	\$145
5716		Completion of Notarized Affidavit	each	\$30	\$145
5717		Digital X-Rays on CD	case	\$180	\$200
5718		Subpoena Witness Fee	each	\$11	\$11
NEW		Subpoena Witness Fee - Federal	each		\$40
NEW		Mailing Fee	each		\$5
Evidence and Property					
5719		Shipping Fee - evidence or property	each	\$165	\$180
5720		Specimen Storage Fee per year	case	\$60	\$65
5721		Facility Utilization	per hour	\$250	\$275
Vital Statistics					
5722		Cremation Permit	each	\$30	\$35