

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE:	December 5, 2023
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CATEGORY: Consent Calendar {{item.number}}

SUBJECT: Approve a renewal agreement with Dr. James Olson, M.D. for autopsy services.

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: All

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Tyler Thompson, Lieutenant, Chief Deputy Coroner (530) 225-5551

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Michael L. Johnson, Sheriff-Coroner

<u>Vote Required?</u>	<u>General Fund Impact?</u>
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Simple Majority Vote

<u>General Fund Impact?</u>

No Additional General Fund Impact

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a renewal agreement with James Olson, M.D. in an amount not to exceed \$275,000 to provide autopsy services for the period December 8, 2023 through December 7, 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Coroner's Office has a duty to conduct complete and objective medicological investigations of specified deaths to determine cause, manner, and circumstance of death. A key aspect to those investigations is provided through forensic pathology services.

While the staffing of the Coroner's Division of the Sheriff's Office includes one forensic pathologist for autopsy services, the position continues to remain vacant. According to the National Association of Medical Examiners, the United States has about 750 full-time, board-certified forensic pathologists and it is estimated that there needs to be at least 1,500 or more to address rising caseloads across all the states. Due to this continuing vacancy, all Coroner's Office cases requiring forensic pathology must be performed under contracts for forensic pathologist services. The Sheriff's Office contracts with multiple pathology service providers including Dr. Olson. During the term of the most recent agreement with Dr. Olson an amendment was required to increase compensation due to the number of cases performed by Dr. Olson and this renewal agreement seeks to address in its compensation maximum the anticipated level of services.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could decline approval of the agreement or ask for additional information. Declining approval of the agreement is not recommended as it could result in increased costs and/or impede the duty of the Coroner to conduct required investigations.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form. Risk Management has approved the agreement. The County Administrative Office has approved the agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Appropriations for professional services are included in the Sheriff's Coroner adopted budget. There is no additional General Fund impact with approval of this recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1: PSA with Dr. Olson